

Kensington & Chelsea News

Established 1857, part of the London Weekly News group

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TUESDAY MARCH 28 2017

Londoners urged to help police prevent more terror attacks

CITY leaders have united to call on all Londoners to “do your duty” and help the Met stop *another* terrorist attack by tipping off police about anybody they suspect of radicalisation, *writes Geoff Baker.*

As the Mayor of London led the call for more tip-offs, in a tri-borough stand of defiance against terrorism, the leaders of Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham councils have come together on one message to the extremists: “you will not win”.

The appeal for everyone to “act on your instincts” and provide information comes after security experts revealed that there are 3,000 people at large that the Met “has concerns about”.

As over-stretched police cannot keep the capital safe on their own, Sadiq Khan, *pictured*, is making the call for Londoners to step up to be the Met’s eyes and ears in the fight against terrorism.

In the aftermath of the Islamist attack that murdered four and injured 50 – and which has left London shocked, grieving but un-cowed – city chiefs, security commanders and community leaders have come together to urge everyone to play a vital part in the protection of all.

In paying tribute to PC Keith Palmer, the unarmed bobby killed at the gates of Parliament and hailed by the Prime Minister as “every inch a hero” for bravely tackling terror maniac Khalid Masood, the Mayor of London said: “Keith was one of the many, many, many officers who risk their lives on a daily basis and that demonstrates why we, as citizens, have a duty to give intelligence and information to the police to help keep us safe.”

He added: “With the best will in the world,

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YOUR CITY NEEDS YOU



London defiant – at gatherings and vigils

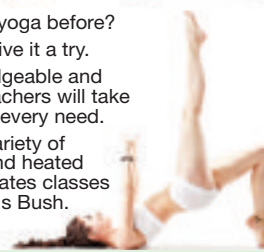
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The London Weekly News Group Westminster & City News

(Established 1857)

Kensington & Chelsea News

(Established 1857 & 1869)

Fulham Chronicle

(Established 1888)

Hammersmith Chronicle

(Established 2015)

Shepherd's Bush Chronicle

(Established 2015)

London Weekly News

(Established 2014)

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Madness will be hosting the House of Commons Festival again this year - see page 17

London high streets under threat as businesses reel over new rates hike

BY GEOFF BAKER

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"INSANE" hikes in new business rates are threatening to cripple and close many small shops in the capital - shocking local traders so much that one almost had a heart attack after opening her swingeing new bill.

Huge demands by the government, intent on making small businesses pay through the nose for the austerity drive, are set to force many independents out of business.

The rocketing rates are so steep that the Mayor of London has stepped in to protest on behalf of businesses that face the risk of being paralysed by Chancellor Philip Hammond's money-grabbing.

Sadiq Khan warns that small independents, particularly in Kensington and Chelsea are now confronting "a clear and present risk to their very existence".

Typical of those being coshed by the Chancellor is Katrina Phillips, whose family has been trading from the same shop on Portobello Road since 1963. Katrina runs the popular interiors shop that sells things that are ethically produced, old, or made by artists.

She has seen the rateable value of her premises increase by more than 55 per cent, from £33,500 to £52,000 through the recent revaluation and as a result her business rates bill will increase by more than £10,000 over the next five years.

Katrina said: "I have gone into debt to keep the shop open, warded off bailiffs in tough times, and never given up.

"When the new business rates were announced, without exaggeration, I thought I was going to have a heart attack. I literally could not breathe.

"I have kept going through very tough times. I have strived to create a place of authenticity and beauty, something people are proud to be a part of.

"I will not be able to survive these increases. There is not enough money taken by small shops to bear these insane rents and rates."

Another royal borough businessman whose plight has been highlighted by the Mayor of London is



Katrina Phillips - "I thought I was going to have a heart attack"

Gareth Jones, who owns the chocolatier Alexeeva & Jones on Westbourne Grove. He has seen the rateable value of his premises increase from £52,000 to £87,500.

"The rateable value for the shop is over £1,500 per square metre - more than five times the charge per square metre levied on the offices of leading global companies in central London," said Sadiq Khan's spokesman.

"Its actual rates bill, after the transitional relief announced by Philip Hammond in the Budget, will rise by around 15 per cent this year from £26,000 to more than £30,000 - and to at least £42,000 by 2021.

Mr Jones said: "I have been running the business for four and a half years. It is already difficult enough running your own business but rent rises and business rates increase are particularly onerous.

"It is another cost burden and makes it more difficult to run a small business. This makes me think that enough is enough and I am now considering closing down for good.

"As with a lot of small businesses, I think that the best opportunities may now be online or wholesale. That takes away the huge and increasing overheads of being on the street."

A spokesman for the Mayor of London said: "With increased business rate bills landing on doorsteps across the capital Sadiq Khan is particularly concerned that many small, independent companies who



Gareth Jones - "I am considering closing down".

have worked hard to build up their businesses over many decades, could be forced to close for good as they will be unable to pay new business rates bills that are rising by up to 45 per cent.

"According to Government data, London's businesses are facing a £900 million business rate hike as a result of the revaluation, to fund an equivalent tax cut for the rest of the country. That figure could eventually rise to £1.2 billion"

Sadiq Khan, said: "When small companies just like Katrina Phillips and Alexeeva & Jones open their new business rates bills this weekend they will be faced with a clear and present risk to their very existence.

"These business owners have dedicated their lives to running successful businesses that are part of their communities. They have toiled through thick and thin. Their stories highlight not only the impact these business rates hikes will have on London's economy, but the human cost too.

"The very nature of London's high streets is under threat. What we need is full devolution of business rates to London with genuine protections in place so we can safeguard businesses like this which are part of the fabric of what makes London such a vibrant, diverse and successful city."

Sue Terpilowski OBE, London Policy Chair Federation of Small Businesses, said: "FSB London fought hard for a concession at the Budget that will impact small businesses. However, the lingering con-

cerns still remain that the average micro business in London will have to find thousands of pounds a month to cover the increase in business rates, alongside £2,600 in additional employment costs in 2017/18 and a further increase in pensions auto-enrolment costs.

"We need to realise that the hard costs of operating a business in the capital are starting to outweigh the benefits which simply does not make economic sense."

While the Mayor has welcomed plans to alleviate the impact of the increases announced by the Chancellor in last week's Budget, he does not believe they go anywhere near far enough.

"The Chancellor announced a £300 million discretionary relief hardship fund in the Budget. London's share in 2017-18 of £72.5 million equates to less than 10 per cent of the additional bill facing London ratepayers from 1 April," said the Mayor's spokesman.

The Government has also set aside £25 million for the next five years to provide transitional support for small businesses losing eligibility for small business rate relief.

"Many of these firms have been paying no business rates for the last five years and were facing immediate increases of more than £3,000 in 2017-18 before the Budget. While the Mayor welcomes the scheme in so far as it goes, we estimate that fewer than 5,000 businesses across London out of more than 300,000 - including only 28 firms in the City of London and a mere 20 in Merton - are expected to benefit," said the spokesman.

"Sadiq also believes that at least 1,000 pubs in London will not be eligible for the one-off £1,000 discount that was announced in the Budget. As the leading rating agents Gerald Eve have highlighted, due to state aid limits the proportion of pubs likely to benefit nationally is just 60 per cent - well below the 90 per cent of pubs claimed by the Government.

"And for the majority of pubs in central and inner London facing large rises in their bills of up to 44 per cent on 1 April this will provide a very limited and very temporary concession.

"To compound the misery for businesses, bills that are currently dropping through letterboxes will not reflect these new reliefs and businesses will have to pay their bills on the basis of the pre-Budget figures until local authorities have received the necessary detailed guidance from the government."

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FROM PAGE 1

32,000 officers across London can't keep us safe by themselves. They rely upon millions of Londoners and those who visit our city to provide them with information.

"One of the reasons why more than a dozen attacks have been thwarted over the past four years is because of the intelligence to the police coming from members of the communities. We're not going to allow these terrorists to cow us, we're not going to allow them to change our way of life."

The Mayor's call was echoed by Nick Paget-Brown, Leader of Kensington and Chelsea Council. He said: "The carnage on Westminster Bridge and at our Parliament was truly awful to behold. We must all hope for the best possible outcome for the injured and that there will be comfort for the bereaved."

"Those of us who follow the news will be all too aware of the world these terrorists wish to create: we have seen it wherever Isis, Boko Haram, Al Shabaab and the like hold sway."

"Theirs is not an agenda that we can accommodate so we must ask ourselves: how exactly should we respond to the atrocity?"

"For one thing, we must all keep our eyes open. If you see anything suspicious, anything at all, if your sixth sense starts tingling, then report it."

"But mostly the answer lies in how we responded. We saw Londoners of all backgrounds rushing to help the injured. We saw paramedics arriving in minutes. We saw nurses and doctors rushing up from St Thomas'. And we saw our diverse police force confronting the attacker and then flooding the area to deal with the second or third wave that might have followed. We even saw the killer's wounds being tended to."

"In my eyes, the actions of that day's heroes reflected the true character of Britain, and of Londoners, a character that is courageous, decent and humane. We must remember this and then, just as a past generation did, we must simply - 'keep calm and carry on!'"

Nickie Aiken, Leader of Westminster City Council, added: "The greatest possible response to those that seek to divide us is instead to strengthen our bonds of unity. We must stand together, united by what we have in common, not what separates us and respond in a calm and proportionate manner."

"Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Rowley has already made clear that the community police presence will be increased. I welcome this but it is equally important that we all continue to play our part in protecting the unity of our community, through fostering better relations and understanding between different elements of our diverse community."

And Stephen Cowan, Leader of Hammersmith & Fulham council, said: "The terrorists will not win. Our diversity, our unity and our democracy makes us stronger. Our respect for human rights, our belief in the rule of law and our compassion make us stronger. These are the values that confront the hatred they espouse. They cannot win."

Commander Simon Bray, the Met's head of Security and Specialist Operations, has stressed the need for tip-offs and has moved to quash fears of wasting police time.

He said: "In London we have excellent relations with our communities. These are the people that we depend on for information to help us keep Londoners safe. The number of calls and online reports we receive with information is increasing but we are appealing for even



Police officers position floral tributes outside the Houses of Parliament

Picture: Adam Gray/SWNS

We can all play a part keeping London safe

more. Research has shown some people worry they might be wasting our time or they are not sure what sort of activity might be suspicious. So we want to allay those concerns and help them to help us make nothing happen by acting on their instincts."

The crucial call for more information comes as it was revealed that the number of potential terrorists in the community is much higher than was feared, running not into hundreds but to thousands.

Frank Gardner, the BBC's security correspondent, said: "There are about 3,000 people that the police and MI5 know about and who they have concerns about. They can't follow them all all of the time, it takes up to 30 people, 24 hours round the clock, to follow somebody."

Another expert, Richard Walton, former lead of the Met's Counter Terrorism Command, added: "The only way you can stop an attack like this is through good intelligence and cooperation from the Muslim community, for people coming forward."

The Muslim Council of Britain's secretary general, Harun Khan, added his weight to the appeal for tip-offs.

He said: "This attack was cowardly and depraved, there is no justification for this it whatsoever. The best response to this outrage is to make sure we come together in solidarity. I hope my Muslim brothers and sisters will reach out to fellow Londoners in solidarity to demonstrate that such hatred will not defeat our way of life."

Mr Khan's plea was echoed by Dr Shamender Talwar and Anna Prior, founders of the Kensington-based The Unity of Faiths Foundation, which has had much success in deradicalising young Londoners.

They said: "We are dealing with people like us - British who have been radicalised, through forms of social media or the internet. People

like this don't need to be put in a corner, otherwise all they will do is bite back and we will only add fuel to the fire."

"We must embrace them. We must re-educate them. We must put an arm around their shoulder and say: this is your community, we are your family and Britain is your home. And most importantly we must all remember there is no colour of the skin, there is no colour of religion, there is no colour of the flag - there is only the colour of the heart. Only the colour of the heart can change Britain and the world to a better place."

The attack by madman Masood, who mowed down 50 innocents in a car before storming the gates of Parliament and being shot dead, took victims from across the world - 15 Britons, including three policemen, three French children, two Romanians, four South Koreans, two Greeks, and one person each from Germany, Poland, Ireland, China, Italy and the United States.

Those murdered on the bridge were: Kurt Cochran, a 54-year-old tourist from Utah, Aysha Frade, a 43-year-old Londoner and mother of two, and Leslie Rhodes, 75, from Clapham.

Mr Cochran's brother-in-law Clint Payne said: "Our family is heart-broken. Kurt was a good man and a loving husband to my sister Melissa. They were in Europe to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary, and were scheduled to return to the United States on Thursday. Melissa also received serious injuries in the attack, and is being cared for in hospital."

Aysha Frade was reported to be on her way to pick up her children from school when she was run down on the bridge.

Mrs Frade worked as an administrator at DLD College on Westminster Bridge Road. Rachel Borland,

principal of the private sixth form college, said: "We are all deeply shocked and saddened. All our thoughts and our deepest sympathies are with Aysha's family. We will be offering every support we can to them as they try to come to terms with their devastating loss. Aysha was highly regarded and loved by our students and by her colleagues. She will be deeply missed by all of us."

Michael Carney, a friend of former window cleaner Mr Rhodes, said: "Les was such a lovely fella who would never hurt anyone. He was so fit he would have lived until he was 90. But they took his life away."

Donations from across London and the world have poured in on the Just Giving donations page for the family of PC Keith Palmer. The initial goal had been to raise £10,000 for his wife Michelle and their five-year-old daughter Amy. But by Sunday the fund had soared to more than £715,000.

PC Palmer, who was 48, joined the Met in November 2001, and joined

the Parliamentary and Diplomatic Protection Command in April 2016. Before that was in the Territorial Support Group (TSG), based at Catford but patrolling and working across London. Prior to the TSG, he was based on Bromley borough between 2002 and 2009. He was nominated in 2015 for best thief taker in the Commissioner's Excellence Awards, having made more than 150 arrests in 12 months.

PC James Aitkenhead, who worked alongside Keith in the TSG, said: "Keith was a genuinely nice person; nobody had a bad word to say about him. When I heard what had happened I knew it would be him because that's just the sort of guy he was, to step straight in when others might step back."

"He had a great work ethic, he worked on our warrants' car for years, getting up at 4am to serve warrants and arresting wanted offenders. He was always so positive, always staying late after everyone else and getting in early. In his personal life, he was a massive Charlton Athletic fan and had a season ticket."

"We will miss him so much." Inspector Mark Turner, from the Parliamentary and Diplomatic Protection Command, said: "Keith really was a solid reliable member of the team - he came in and just got the job done, quietly and efficiently. He was a fantastic member of staff and will be sorely missed."

As a mark of respect Keith's shoulder number - 4157U - will be retired and not reissued to any other officer.

In a statement, PC Palmer's family said: "We have been overwhelmed by the love and support for our family, and most especially, the outpouring of love and respect for our Keith."

"We want to thank everyone who has reached out to us over the past few days for their kindness and generosity. The police have been a constant, unwavering support at this very difficult time. It has made us realise what a caring, strong and supportive family Keith was part of during his career with the police. We can't thank them enough."

"We would also like to express our gratitude to the people who were with Keith in his last moments and who were working that day. There was nothing more you could have done."

"You did your best and we are just grateful he was not alone. We care about him being remembered for his selfless bravery and loving nature. We miss him so much, but we are also incredibly proud of Keith."

To donate to PC Palmer's family, go to: justgiving.com/crowdfunding/keith-palmer. And if you have suspicions about terrorism, you can phone 0800 789 321 or 999

London Mayor Sadiq Khan issued a defiant message to Londoners



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MP hosts a Kensington clear-up

KENSINGTON MP Victoria Borwick has been getting her hands dirty for a cleaner borough.

Mrs Borwick and council Leader Nick Paget-Brown joined volunteers to clean up Kensington and make it clear to those who are littering that it is not acceptable.

They took part in the Great British Spring Clean which brought together like-minded people from all walks of life to clear up the litter that blights Britain's towns, villages, countryside and coastline.

"The campaign sends a clear signal to those who drop the litter - there is growing movement of people who find littering unacceptable," said the MP's spokesman.

Mrs Borwick cleaned up West Cromwell Road with around 30 volunteers and collected almost 50 bags of rubbish. They also tidied Acklam Road and Wornington Road.

The Great British Spring Clean was launched by Melissa Murdoch in 2015. In 2016 there was a hugely successful Clean for the Queen event which saw 250,000 people to get involved in local clean-ups. This year the campaign aimed to inspire 500,000 people to get outdoors, get active and help clear up rubbish.

Mrs Borwick said: "This is a fantastic initiative that cleans up our streets, brings the community together and sends an important message to those dropping the litter to stop. The turnout in Kensington was fantastic and the clean-up made a really positive difference to the local area."



MP Victoria Borwick, right, and council leader Nick Paget-Brown, centre, join the clean-up team

Easter activities for young people

YOUNG people in Kensington and Chelsea looking for something to do during the Easter holidays should check Epic Youth, Play and Sport services - a wide ranging programme of activities running from Monday 3 to Monday April 17 - urges the council.

"There's lots on offer for young people aged from six to 19, and

aged up to 25 for those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities," said a spokesman.

"Why not try your hand at chocolate making, take part in a DJ workshop or test your cooking and baking skills?"

"If you fancy something more active there's non-contact boxing, table tennis, trampolining, kayak-

ing and climbing to work your muscles. There are also holiday-themed events such as an Easter egg hunt to take part in."

All Youth and Play events in the programme are free, Epic Sports Easter activities have prices ranging from £2 to £10 a session.

For more information go to www.epiccc.org.uk/epiceaster.

NEWS FROM NICK



Leader of Kensington and Chelsea council, Nick Paget-Brown

Standing by our promise over Crossrail station

I was concerned, but not surprised, to read reports in the media that the Crossrail 2 project could be derailed or side-lined because of cost and competing infrastructure demands.

Residents will know that the Council is a staunch supporter of a Crossrail 2 Station on the King's Road. We believe there is an overwhelming case for a station in an area that many people visit but is poorly served by public transport.

I know that in the final analysis money calls the shots, especially when it comes to costly infrastructure projects. If reports are to be believed, a project that had a budget of about £31 billion is now looking to deliver the line with £27 billion in the pot. A cut of £4 billion. Not an insignificant sum and one that will require sacrifices to the original plan. Might this mean that the King's Road station may be lined up for a place on the altar?

Of course, where money is concerned there is sometimes room for negotiation. Could we offer something that would help the budget? The obvious answer for a cash-strapped Treasury would lie in associated development above and around the station. But this is not an option. There will be no backsliding on commitments made to residents, even if such development would help to meet the cost of a station.

On current plans, ones I still hope will come to fruition, the above ground element of a Crossrail 2 station in Chelsea would be an elegant, single storey building at the southern end of Sydney Street. These modest proposals originated with TfL and put paid to a number of false claims and rumours, the most fantastical of which was that the station would entail a 'Westfield-sized' retail development.

In letters to residents and local businesses and in a number of published articles the Council made plain its strong support for a Crossrail 2 station in Chelsea. At the same time, we also promised that the station would not mean additional development which would be out of character with the local area. Moreover, we indicated that, as the planning authority, we would not permit such development.

Now, with the putative Crossrail 2 budget facing a significant reduction, boroughs campaigning for stations are under pressure to show what additional development might be possible in order to help meet the cost of the scheme. This is the context in which Kensington and Chelsea has renewed its commitment to residents.

Make no mistake, we continue to believe that Chelsea needs a Crossrail 2 station. Nevertheless, we consider ourselves bound by our public statements about station development. An elegant and low-key development would fit the bill - a larger development would not. That was our commitment to residents and we will not renege on that promise.

Our position therefore is that we have made a sufficient case for the station without having to offer up additional value in the form of over-station development.

It's worth repeating that Chelsea is a densely populated area with three major hospitals. It is also a world-famous shopping and visitor destination. In other words, Chelsea is somewhere people actually want to go. Add in that it is poorly served by public transport, heavily congested, has some of the worst air quality in the country and that, over the long term, our station would comfortably pay for itself and you can see why we believe we still have overwhelming grounds for being included in the next iteration of the route.



Adam White cycles to raise money for Caudwell Children

Cycling in a box

TESCO shoppers almost crashed their trolleys in surprise at seeing a man bicycling in a box in the Kensington store.

Local volunteer Adam White put his life on hold to live in the glass case for 50 hours, to help national charity Caudwell Children raise vital awareness and funds for autism.

Adam entered the 3m x2m box in the foyer of the store at 6.15pm on Monday and came out at 8.15pm on Wednesday.

"The glass box is a metaphor for the condition, as many families that Caudwell Children support describe autism as 'like living in a glass box'," said a Tesco spokesman.

"The sense of isolation, difficulty in communication and being stared at from all directions are often associated with the condition."

All funds raised from the David Blaine-style event will be used to support autistic children across West London. To donate go to: justgiving.com/adamlockedin

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To contact the leader of the council, Cllr
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Giant crane will 'minimise' impact of Earls Court project

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

WEST London's skyline now has a new landmark – a crane called AI which is twice the height of Nelson's Column and capable of lifting more than 100 buses in one go.

The heavy lifting crane, London's largest crane at 400ft tall, is now ready to begin work on-site at Earls Court.

The Earls Court development, led by Capital & Counties Properties PLC will create 8,000 homes and 10,000 new jobs as well as a new High Street and a new five-acre park in London.

Demolition of the former exhibition centres to ground level is complete after two years of intensive work on site, managed by Capco's construction partner, Keltbray. The crane is the most visible part of the important site preparation that will take place throughout 2017 to prepare the site for future construction.

The heavy lifting crane - technical name, the AL.SK190 crane - is an industry-leading innovation and was designed and manufactured by specialist engineering firm, ALE.

The crane will carefully lift 61 'portal beams' out from over the London Underground lines that lie below the former exhibition centres. The large concrete beams supported the weight of the exhibition centre and need to be removed to enable development on site.

The smallest beam is 80 tonnes with the largest beam weighing 1,500 tonnes, the same as 118 London buses.

"The crane was specifically chosen as the optimum engineering solution and the method has been designed to minimise the impact on local residents, to help reduce the

carbon footprint of the project and will significantly shorten the project timescales," said a spokeswoman for the developers.

The crane is 120m high which is more than twice the height of Nelson's Column and is the largest capacity lifting crane ever to be used in London. It will operate only on the Earls Court site and will not oversail any of the nearby properties.

Speaking about the progress on the site, Mike Hood, Group Development Director, Capco said: "We are making good progress at Earls Court to prepare the site for future development. The heavy lifting crane is the most visible part of this work and will be part of the London skyline for the next year.

"We know there is huge interest in the crane and we are encouraging people to visit the Earls Court Project Rooms for our monthly open day to find out more."

"David Rowe, Technical Manager for Keltbray, the specialist contractor overseeing the site works at Earls Court, added: "By utilising this crane and lifting method, disruption is minimised and the crane's high capacity and precision lifting technology will reduce the overall project timescale considerably.

"With the successful demolition of the former exhibition centres last year the lifting of the large portal beams is the next big task at Earls Court as we prepare the site for construction. The project team has worked tirelessly to ensure the most appropriate technology was chosen and implemented in order to minimise disruption to our neighbours."

Giovanni Alders, Sales Manager, Global Projects Division for ALE said: "Opera-



Dominating the London skyline - the innovative 400 feet high crane in Earls Court

tionally, this crane can perform lifts previously unachievable and reinforces the innovation seen throughout the whole project. We are looking forward to progressing with the project and executing the first lift."

The first lifts will take place at the end of the week. The lifting of the portal beams will occur overnight in 'engineering hours' after the last District Line train has passed through the tunnels underneath the beams.

Smallest house in Chelsea sells for £700,000 at auction

CHELSEA'S smallest house has sold for £2,500 per square foot and by more than £100,000 over the asking price.

The tiny detached home in Britten Street has been sold by estate agent Douglas & Gordon for £713,823. The guide price was £600,000.

"Made up of one bedroom, one bathroom, a kitchen and a reception room included in just 290 sq. ft., the property is in need of a full renovation. But it has an exclusive Chelsea address, complete with views of St Luke's Park, a unique appearance and – following blanket coverage in the press last month – fame in its own right," said a spokeswoman.

"Douglas & Gordon's



Chelsea team conducted well in excess of 100 viewings, such was the interest in the mini mansion."

It was eventually sold to Robin Swailes, who saw off 18 other prospective buyers.

Mr Swailes said he saw the "small but beautiful" property, which was reportedly built as a home for grave diggers, as an investment that will outperform his pension by 30 per cent over the next 10 years.

Although Mr Swailes said

the occupation of its past owners "added to the charm of the place", he said he would not be following in their footsteps and adding a basement.

Ed McCulloch, sales manager at Douglas & Gordon in Chelsea described the house as, "totally unique, a one-off" and added he'd never seen a smaller freehold property in Chelsea.

"When fully refurbished, the value of this proper Chelsea gem will almost certainly increase in price, making it a great investment," he added. "Properties this unique are extremely rare, and the person who owns it can be safe in the knowledge that no-one else lives in a house quite like them."

Music award for St Charles

THE musical talents of pupils and teachers at a North Kensington primary school have won them receive a School Music Excellence Award at City Hall.

All children at St Charles Primary School receive weekly specialist music and singing lessons. This has resulted in whole classes taking up the recorder, cello and ukulele.

About half of all pupils at the school learn to play an instrument with the help of peripatetic teachers with children from less well-off families receiving subsidised or free one on one music tuition to ensure musical opportunities are open to all.

The school has two thriving choirs and an orchestra. Both the choirs and the orchestra perform concerts in the community and enjoy performing for elderly residents of the borough.

Musical opportunities offered by the Tri-borough Music Hub mean St Charles children regularly attend the Primary Proms and Classical Spectacular at the Royal Albert Hall. The school also hosts annual music workshops given by students from the Royal College of Music.

Ann Slavin, Head of St Charles, said: "I am delighted the efforts of teachers and pupils have led to us receiving this award.

"The children have embraced music with a passion. They love playing and singing and it is clear that we have some very talented performers in our school."

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Syed Kamall

Have a say

Email Geoff Baker
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Letters

When I was growing up, my next door neighbour left school at sixteen since he was not interested in the subjects being taught at his school. Fortunately, he was offered an apprenticeship as a printer.

This allowed him to receive on-the-job training while earning a wage.

Sadly, in the early 1990s the focus on getting more young people into university meant the popularity of apprenticeships and vocational training in the UK declined. This was in stark contrast to countries such as Germany where apprenticeships were seen as

Why should we support apprenticeships? Because they work!

a key factor in the success of their Mittelstand (small and medium sized) companies.

Fortunately, over the last decade apprenticeships have become more popular in the UK. The recent 10th National Apprenticeship Week (#NAW2017) brought together employers and apprentices from across the UK to celebrate the success of such partnerships over the last ten years, and to encourage even more people to choose this path as a fast-track to a great career.

Apprenticeships are seen to bring huge benefits to our young people, to older people looking to retrain, to our city and its vibrant economy, and to the country as a whole.

They give people of all ages and all backgrounds the ladder of opportunity to get paid experience in work and achieve a top-class qualification at the same time. We all know that bright and talented people are critical to the long-term success and sustainability of our economy. Apprentices taken on since 2012 in

London have topped 46,000 - just over half of them women - with most companies reporting how placements had improved productivity. Some 24,200 employers took on apprentices in London last year alone.

Long gone are the days when apprenticeships were seen by some employers as a means to recruit a runner or tea-bringer - indeed today's apprentices already bring with them a skillset of their own - particularly in the realms of multi-media. Many employers and employees have as much to learn from the apprentice as the apprentice has to learn from them.

Many of our young apprentices are inspiring, ambitious, full of energy and passion - and keen to bound up the ladder of opportunity to achieve their goals and be the best they can possibly be in their chosen fields. Older apprentices can bring all these things as well as their experience of working in another industry.

An array of events up and down the country held as part of National Apprenticeship Week - some run by apprentices, some run by employers themselves -

Syed Salah Kamall MEP is a British academic and politician who has represented London as a Member of the European Parliament for the Conservative Party since 2005, and since 2013 has been Leader of the Conservatives in the European Parliament

showcased the best of apprenticeships and the numerous job roles and sectors they are available in.

The apprentices themselves addressed audiences at events and demonstrated the benefits apprenticeships have brought to their professional and personal lives. Recently a new campaign by the Department for Education urged smaller companies to take on apprentices.

One example in east London was Blue Engineering in Shoreditch. Apprenticeships were first tried at the company in 2012, in a programme that has expanded since then with its growing business. Past and present apprentices now account for almost half the Blue Engineering workforce. But the government is concerned that almost three-quarters of other small and medium enterprises are "yet to be convinced of the merits of apprenticeships". So the campaign aims to challenge perceptions and has funding available to help pay salaries for paid learning.

The combination of experienced staff members who have finely honed their skills over many years and apprentices, who bring raw talent, who are eager to learn and who bring with them a skillset, particularly in multimedia, that might not be prevalent in a more traditional workforce, changes a staff dynamic.

London businesses are finding that the increasing number of apprentices in their organisations has had a tremendous impact on the way they work. An injection of youth or experience, talent, passion, and a willingness to learn has transformed their workplaces.

Today's consumers, clients and customers are very careful who they do business with. They want to see companies doing their bit for their local communities - and hiring an apprentice can be one way to demonstrate this commitment.

Supporting apprentices is increasingly being seen as an important part of strengthening the labour market as a whole with apprenticeships expected to contribute a staggering £3.4 billion to the UK economy by 2022.

And let's not forget, figures aside, these are individual stories. Stories of empowerment, success, passion and commitment. We should be proud of our apprentices. After many years of being belittled, apprenticeships now have the recognition they deserve.

School cuts

An open letter to the Prime Minister

WE are writing as local authority mental health champions, councillors representing the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties, from all corners of the country and supported by the UK's leading charities in this field.

As elected representatives seeking to improve psychological wellbeing, we welcomed your mental health speech of January 9 in which you rightly emphasised early intervention for children and young people.

Of course, much of that early intervention takes place in schools, with children learning social and academic skills, protective of mental health, whilst being able to get pastoral care including counselling.

Those lessons and care can only be imparted by skilled professionals and with around 70 per cent of schools budgets spent on frontline staff that requires the right funding. It is why we are so concerned about the National Funding Formula proposals, which are set to drastically reduce schools funding in the areas of greatest need.

The North West, the West Midlands and London, regions with some of the very poorest boroughs, and therefore the highest mental ill health prevalence, are all net losers from the NFF.

We ask you to look again at cutting the schools budgets for the poorest communities which will damage the mental health of coming generations, placing a greater burden on public services and our economy.

Instead, a relatively small investment of £350 million would level schools up rather than schools down. **Clr Ed Davie - Lambeth; Clr Catherine Faulks - Kensington and Chelsea; Clr Simon Wales - Sutton; Clr Ian Beckett - Harlow; Clr Paulette Hamilton - Birmingham; Clr Wayne Blackburn - Pendle; Clr Paul Cummins - Sefton; Clr Adam Wilkinson - Calderdale; Clr Amy Whitelock Gibbs - Tower Hamlets; Clr Helen Dennis - Southwark; Clr Alan De'Ath - Hammersmith and Fulham; Clr Jonathan Slater - Lewisham; Clr Neil Wilson - Newham; Clr Dr Abdullah Gulaid - Ealing**

Classroom care

MY daughter Jenny has type 1 diabetes. By law, her school should have had a long-term medical conditions policy in place to protect her and other children with long term

conditions, like ME (chronic fatigue syndrome), asthma, arthritis, coeliac disease, epilepsy, migraine and many more.

But after Jenny had a major problem at school recently, I found out they didn't.

Jenny was out doing her cycling proficiency when she had a massive hypoglycaemic episode. No one had made sure she had her test kit or any glucose with her.

She was made to walk back to school where it took her 40 minutes to recover.

I've spent the last few weeks asking other schools in my area what support they offer. Disappointingly, no schools I spoke to had a long-term medical conditions policy in place.

In England, this is actually a breach of the law. But more importantly it risks children's lives.

This serious threat to my daughter's health could have been avoided if a medical conditions policy had been in place and was being properly followed.

I want the minister [for vulnerable children and families] Edward Timpson to write to every school in England to remind them that they have a legal responsibility to have a medical conditions policy.

And to make sure that these policies are actually being followed, he should ask school regulator Ofsted to look at this during their inspections.

Making sure schools get this right will help children with serious medical conditions thrive in school, and could save a life.

**Louise Fyfe-Taylor
Shepherd's Bush**

Youth services

THE future of youth services in London looks increasingly bleak as updated figures show at least £7.5 million will be cut this year from council budgets across London.

The figures show:

■ total youth service cuts across London between 2011/12 and 2016/17 are now more than £28 million, an average of 34 per cent

■ councils plan to remove at least another £7.5 million from youth services in their upcoming 2017/18 budgets

■ at least 457 youth worker jobs have been lost since 2011, a staffing cut of 48 per cent

■ 36 youth centres have closed across the city.

I am now repeating my call for the Mayor to act as a strategic, London-wide level to protect youth services in my response to the Mayor's draft Police and Crime Plan.

The final plan must set out how the Mayor will act.

**Sian Berry AM
Green Party London**



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Department
for Education

Bid to save hospital heart services

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDONERS of all political persuasions took to the streets of Chelsea to protest to Jeremy Hunt against plans to axe heart services at the Royal Brompton Hospital which would put babies and children at risk.

Kensington MP Victoria Borwick and International Trade Minister Greg Hands marched against their own party colleague as former Speaker Betty Boothroyd and Kensington and Chelsea Council Leader Nick Paget-Brown



Nick Paget-Brown, left, Betty Boothroyd and Greg Hands protest

joined the mass of people protesting against the Health Secretary's plans to cease all Congenital Heart Diseases operations and Children's Unit research at the Royal Brompton.

The march was supported by one of the world's most renowned cardiac surgeons who warned that it would be a "crime" if NHS chiefs axed services at London's specialist heart and lung hospital.

Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub said the proposals to stop congenital heart surgery for children and adults at the Royal Brompton risked destroying the entire institution.

He said: "The Brompton has been a leading hospital in the world on congenital heart disease. It hurts me a lot to see centres of excellence being shut for convenience, for planning purposes, because it doesn't fit on a piece of paper somewhere in the ministry

"When you have a tradition of excellence in one place, please don't destroy it. It's very sad to see so-called planners wanting to have 'optimised services', saying they don't like this here and they might put it there."

He added the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS trust had "evolved and



Kensington MP Victoria Borwick protests to save the Royal Brompton heart unit

worked for more 100 years. What are you doing? Why are you killing a centre of excellence? To me, it's a crime."

NHS England's draft plans would reduce the number of hospitals performing heart surgery to correct birth defects from 13 to 10. The Brompton is at risk because officials say it would be "extremely unlikely" to meet safety standards introduced last year.

There is strong support for the changes from paediatricians at other London hospitals, but the Brompton feels NHS England has its facts wrong and the row has meant a public consultation is yet to

be launched. But NHS England and Jeremy Hunt may be forced to do a U-turn when the hugely-controversial proposal, which is opposed by at least 20,000 people who have signed a petition to save the Royal Brompton heart services, is put up for public consultation.

An NHS England spokesman said: "We have worked with patients, their families, clinicians and other experts for two years to draw up standards for congenital heart disease services. No final decisions have been taken and we will soon begin a consultation."

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Kensington & Chelsea NEWS pick up points

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Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
Portobello Rd Market Office	72 Tavistock Road		W11 1AN

Fulham Chronicle pick up points

Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX
Avonmore Lib. & Neighbourhood Ctr	North End Crescent		W14 8TG
Fulham Good Neighbours	70 Rosalind Road		SW6 7QT

Hammersmith CHRONICLE pick up points

The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Hammersmith Library	Shepherd's Bush Road		W6 7AT

Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE pick up points

Westfield Library	6 Wood Lane		W12 7BF
Askew Road Library	87-91 Askew Road		W12 9AS



THE Friends of the Holy Land charity raised £3,000 by holding a St Patrick's Night party at Our Lady of Victories church in Kensington.

Irish actress Mairin de Buttleir, pictured right, who stars in the popular, long-running Irish soap *Ros na Run*, hosted the evening and 160 guests were entertained by traditional Irish musicians the Jacket Spuds.

"Wearing brightly coloured dance outfits, the Scoil Rince Ceim Oir Irish school of dancing gave a skilful and exuberant performance which wowed the audience," said a spokeswoman.

Rickman Estate Agents sponsored the event, which was held in honour of Ireland's national saint. Funds raised will support Christians in the Holy Land.

Stephen Cowan leader of Hammersmith & Fulham council



Why terrorists cannot win

ON Thursday night, Councilor Sue Fennimore and I represented Hammersmith & Fulham at a vigil in Trafalgar Square. It had been called by Mayor Sadiq Khan.

We were joined by leaders of many faiths and people from different backgrounds and nationalities, sending an image of London united in our abhorrence at the previous day's vile act of terrorism.

Four people were murdered. Around 50 people from 12 different countries were injured. I know all the people of Hammersmith & Fulham join me in expressing our deepest

sorrow to those suffering injuries and to the families and loved ones of the innocent people killed.

One of those whose life was taken was PC Keith Palmer. PC Palmer had served in the Royal Artillery before becoming a member of the Parliamentary and Diplomatic Protection Squad which he had served in for the last 15 years.

We should never forget that when attacks happen, and as civilians are ushered towards safety, it is the police and security services that take the opposite course and confront danger head on.

PC Palmer was just 48. He was a husband and a father of a 5-year-old daughter. He courageously faced down the attacker. I can only imagine the grief his family feel today. They do not mourn alone.

Around the world people joined to send their messages of solidarity. The terrorists will not win. Our diversity, our unity and our democracy makes us stronger. Our respect for human rights, our belief in the rule of law and our compassion make us stronger. These are the values that confront the hatred they espouse. They cannot win.



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Highlights of the 2014 regatta, including Captain Jack Sparrow, centre right, a trio of ye olde sailors, below, and bar staff take part in the best-dressed pub contest, right



Squeeze frontman Tilbrook at helm of Tall Ships festival

BY MANDY LITTLE
mandy.little@slp.co.uk

A watery-themed programme with legendary Squeeze frontman Glenn Tilbrook at the helm has been unveiled to help celebrate the arrival of up to 40 historic ships from across the globe.

Plans for the Greenwich Tall Ships Festival to mark the arrival of the Rendez-Vous 2017 Tall Ships Regatta over Easter include free outdoor street performances in both Greenwich and Woolwich town centres.

Historic sailing ships including the Aphrodite to the Zephyr are to be anchored by the riverside on the Royal Arsenal site in Woolwich and Maritime Greenwich and visitors will be able to get on board for free.

Paid-for trips up the river to Tower Bridge will be on offer, and the highlights of the festival include a spectacular Parade of Sail climax as the ships head out to Quebec in Canada on Sunday, April 16 from 5pm.

For landlubbers there is to

be plenty of activities to enjoy at the festival, which attracted around a million visitors when it was last held in 2014, spending around £17million. The four-day event is to be launched on Thursday, April 13.

Charlton resident and singer-songwriter Tilbrook, from Squeeze, who cut their musical teeth in South East London, is among the acts set to entertain on the Fentimans Music Stage in Woolwich.

The highlights also include Spark! – a street theatre performance which combines drumming, dynamic choreography and lighting design.

Young singers from both the Royal Greenwich and Blackheath Halls Youth Choir are to be among the youngsters showcasing their talents. Events are to culminate each evening with firework displays in both Woolwich and Greenwich.

Fifty youngsters from Greenwich will sail into Greenwich from Sines in Portugal as part of the first leg of

the regatta, thanks to sponsorship from a range of companies and organisations.

Councillor Denise Scott-McDonald, the cabinet member for culture, creative industries and community well-being, said: “The Rendez-Vous Tall Ships Regatta 2017 will be a maritime and cultural spectacular not to be missed. The event will also give a welcome boost to our local economy and businesses, who are already preparing for a very busy weekend.

“I’m incredibly proud of our local young people who have been picked to work as Tall Ships crew, and we are proud to be working with our official charity Partners Sea Cadets and Seafarers UK to increase such marvellous opportunities as these for young people.”

● For more information visit www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/tallships/whatson. For information on sail trainee places available on the rest of the voyage visit www.sailonboard.co.uk.

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Royal Greenwich Tall Ships Festival nominated charities

'Great step forward' in fight to save cinema from closure

FOLLOWING an outcry of protest from the local community and a petition led by the West End Labour Action Team, the much-loved cinema Curzon Mayfair has moved nearer staying off the threat of closure.

Developers Vevil International and 38 Curzon Ltd have presented proposals to Westminster council seeking permission to install additional soundproofing to prevent noise from reaching recently refurbished luxury flats above the cinema.

"This represents a radical departure from the approach taken by the developers last year, when they brought an action of forfeiture against the cinema," said a spokesman for the Westminster Labour councillors.

"If the action had been successful, the cinema would have had to leave the premises. It appears, however, that this approach has been dropped in favour of compromise."

The U-turn follows pressure from the local community and the West End

Labour Action Team who set up a petition, backed by more than 27,000 people, to save the cinema.

Launched by the action team's Pancho Lewis, the petition backed the Curzon cinema's management team who had argued that the venue is a unique community asset that had to be saved. Cinema-goers across the country also rallied behind the campaign to protect the historic venue.

Mr Lewis said: "This is a great step forward in the campaign to save the Curzon Mayfair. It goes to show that by pulling together we can send a strong message and protect cultural venues in the West End, putting the needs of the community above those of luxury-flat developers."

"The campaign doesn't end here though. We need to remain vigilant and continue to work to protect this cinema and indeed all cultural venues in the West End."

"Too many places are under threat of closure. It is no exaggeration to say that arts

and culture in the West End faces an unprecedented threat in this day and age."

"Curzon Soho is also under threat, and groups like Save Soho are doing a great job to raise the profile of the issue – we need to rally behind them."

The petition read: "We the undersigned call on the mayor of London and Westminster City Council to step in and save historic cinema Curzon Mayfair from closure."

"It is an absolute travesty that developers 38 Curzon Ltd have called on the Curzon to fork out £500,000 to soundproof luxury properties they are building above it. They know that the cinema doesn't have the funds. They know that the venue is listed and would face an uphill struggle to get permission to change its interiors."

"This is a de facto attempt to close the Curzon through the back door."

"Curzon Mayfair must be protected. We simply cannot afford to lose this much-loved, iconic venue."

Historic leisure centre set for upgrade

MARYLEBONE'S Seymour Leisure Centre is set for a facelift that will introduce upgraded modern facilities into the historic site, as a public consultation opens on how to spend £1.6 million of investment.

Westminster council promises that the consultation will listen to people's views on plans for new services and improvements for a location steeped in the history of UK sports.

"The current Seymour Leisure Centre was built as the modern incarnation of what is among the first public bath houses in the country, which opened on

the site in 1849. This bath house was developed and rebuilt over time until it was eventually replaced by the current building – which celebrates its 80th birthday this year," said a council spokesman.

"This refurbishment work forms part of a programme of investment worth £9 million at sites across Westminster by our contractor, Everyone Active."

"At the Seymour, new facilities will potentially include a Hot Yoga studio, a group cycling studio, a new exercise studio, plus the refurbishment of the existing health suite to include

hot beds and an expansion of the current gym area. This will be combined with a general update to the changing rooms."

Cllr David Harvey, the council's cabinet member for sports, leisure and community, said: "Seymour Leisure Centre is a fantastic location with a history of providing London with a healthy place to train and relax."

The consultation on the refurbishment will run until Sunday April 9. Residents can also complete a questionnaire, hosted on the Seymour Leisure Centre's website and at the reception of the centre.

Councillors move to name and shame dodgy landlords

WESTMINSTER councillors are to name and shame dodgy West End landlords so that people know who to avoid when looking to rent.

The plan to "out the rogues" is part of a new scheme for private tenants launched by the West End Labour Action Team.

The team is calling on residents, businesses and workers in the West End for their feedback on which landlords cannot be trusted, and which can.

"Our new plan brings forward ambitious proposals to tackle the fact that private tenants are paying more and more in rent and yet many have to put up with poor living conditions like damp," said a spokesman. "At a time when the prospect of home ownership remains a distant prospect for many, the West End Labour Action Team is calling on Westminster council to stand up for 'Generation Rent' and make sure tenants get a fair deal."

Pancho Lewis, of the West End Labour team, said: "More than 40 per cent of residents rent, and the average tenant

pays nearly half of their income in rent. And yet far too many tenants live in substandard accommodation. It's just not on – we need to tackle this issue. Our five-point plan puts forward ideas to make sure tenants who are being let down are given a fair deal."

Patrick Lilley, of the action team, said: "We're calling on the community to give us their views on our proposals. We want to work with residents in the West End to develop these ideas so we can make a real difference to people living in the private rented sector."

West End Labour proposes a five point plan to:

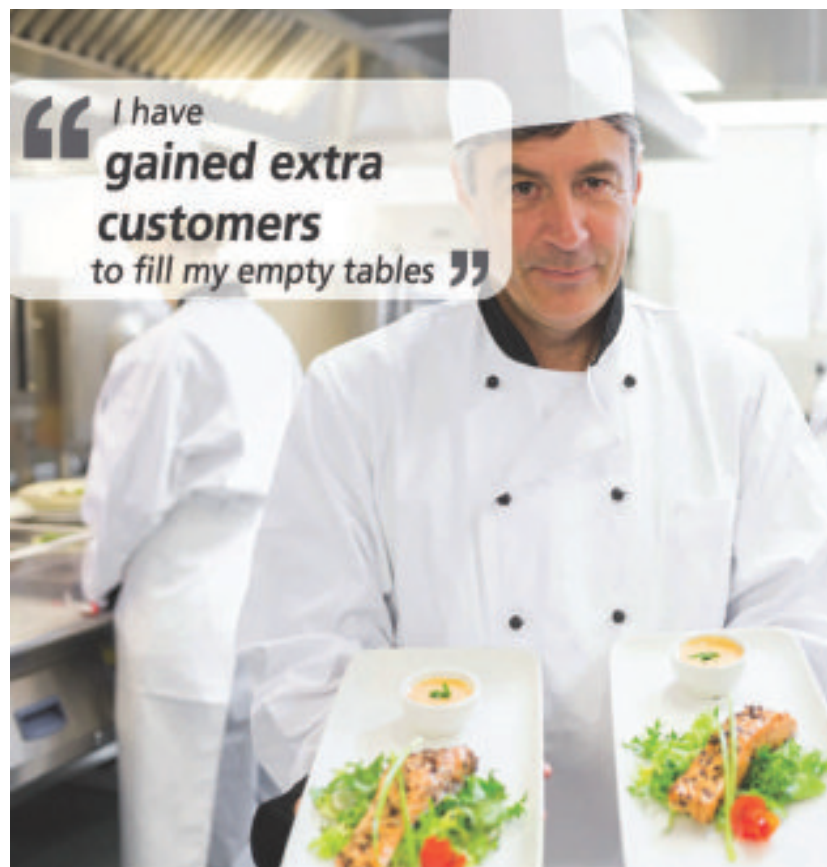
- Support the mayor's London living rent policy. Rent levels would be set at one third of average local incomes. This will help households typically earning between £35,000 and £45,000, who are currently renting privately. Westminster council should lead the way in embracing the London Living Rent.
- Set up a not-for-profit lettings agency for good landlords. This would give renters confidence,

helping do away with the high fees tenants can be charged as well as promoting longer-term tenancies and stabilising rents.

- Celebrate landlords who do a good job, and name and shame those who don't. They will name and shame rogue landlords while celebrating landlords who punch above their weight in providing tenants with a high-quality service.

- Protect renters from revenge evictions. Tenants are often evicted for requesting repairs to badly maintained properties. A new law brought forward in 2015 to help prevent revenge evictions has failed. New rules are needed so that when landlords fail to carry out repairs within a reasonable time frame, tenants can carry out repairs and have the costs deducted from rent.

- Encourage more build-to-rent developments. This will mean young professionals and middle-income families can afford to live in Westminster. Feed back to the survey at labourwestminster.wordpress.com.



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The 163rd University Boat Race

University Boat Race crews get ready to do battle for 163rd time

BY TOM DEAN
shuz@slp.co.uk

The 163rd University Boat Race is taking place on Sunday, April 2.

Last year's event will be remembered for the Cambridge men's crew's first win since 2012 and the terrible conditions which saw the Cambridge women nearly sink and allow Oxford to coast to an easy victory.

The Championship Course is four miles, 374 yards and stretches between Putney and Mortlake on the River Thames.

The race is among the oldest sporting event in the world. Cambridge boast the superior record with the light blue men leading Oxford by 82 wins to 79. Cambridge's women also have an advantage over their rivals, with 41 wins, to Oxford's 30.

This year the Cancer Research UK Boat Races will be broadcast on BBC and presented by Claire Balding, with

the women's race at 4.35pm and the men's race at 5.35pm.

Spectators will also be able to enjoy the race up close with great viewing locations at Putney Bridge, Craven Cottage and Putney Embankment.

The Cambridge crew includes two members of the winning 2016 team, and weighs in at a total of 747.6kg (117.7 stone), while Oxford were 721.7kg (113.6st).

Cambridge's men's coach is Steve Trapmore, who won Olympic gold at Sydney 2000 as part of the British men's eight.

Sean Bowden takes charge of the Oxford crew and has been chief coach since 1997, winning 11 of the last 17 races. The women's race will be umpired by Sarah Winckless, who will become the first female to umpire a race on the Tideway nine months after she became the first female to umpire a race at Henley Royal Regatta. The men's race will be umpired by four-time



medal winner Sir Matthew Pinsent. Pinsent raced for Oxford in 1990, 1991 and 1993, winning the first two races before losing as President in 93.

Perhaps the most famous face to have competed in the race in Oxford-born actor Hugh Laurie, who followed in his father's footsteps and took to the Thames for Cambridge in the 1980, race, which the light blues narrowly lost.



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The 163rd University Boat Race



Left, the 2017 crews line up for the crew announcement at the Francis Crick Institute. Right, the 2016 boats pass under Hammer-smith Bridge. Below, the Cambridge crew celebrate last year's win. Inset, Matthew Pinsent. Opposite page, the Oxford women and Cambridge men celebrate their 2016 wins. Inset, Hugh Laurie



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Boffins learn from falcons

ENGINEERS have been working on future aircraft concepts inspired by the aerodynamics of the world's fastest bird, the peregrine falcon.

Scientists at BAE Systems and City University in London revealed how research into the way falcons fly is inspiring new technologies for aircraft that could contribute to their safety in the air, aerodynamics and fuel efficiency.

And they say the innovative technologies could be applied within the next 20 years.

The scientists have developed several concepts following research into how the peregrine falcon is able to stay in control and airborne at speeds of up to 200 miles per hour, even in high winds.

The technologies being developed include 'sensory feathers' – 3D-printed polymer 'hair' filaments which would act like sensors on the body of an aircraft, providing an early warning system if it began to stall.

Similarly, more densely packed passive polymer filaments may also be capable of changing the airflow very close to the surface of the aircraft which could reduce 'drag' on the wing-skin. Aerodynamic drag ultimately slows aircraft in flight.

A further technology has been inspired by the falcon's ability to stabilise itself after swooping or landing by ruffling its feathers.

The researchers say small flexible or hinged flaps on an aircraft could allow the wing to manoeuvre quickly and land more safely at lower speeds.

They said the added safety margin gained using this approach could allow future aircraft of a more compact design or to carry more fuel. And the research so far has shown that the flaps could potentially lower aircraft noise pollution.

Meet your neighbour

HAMMERSMITH and Fulham Council is urging residents to greet Polish neighbours with a hearty "Dzień dobry!"

The thoughtful 'good morning' will probably earn a response of "Piękny cię zobaczę" – or "lovely to see you", the council advises.

In an initiative aimed at encouraging neighbourliness, the council is funding an event called Meet Your Polish Neighbours, to build bridges in the community.

Run by London Spark – a group which promotes Polish culture – the initiative has its own Facebook page. The first workshop has already been staged at POSK, the Polish Social and Cultural Association at 238 King Street, Hammersmith.

Led by Joseph Conrad, Paweł Pawlikowski and Zygmunt Bauman, it focused on the history of Polish immigration into the UK, and its contribution to British culture.

Meet Your Polish Neighbours organiser Anna Magryta-Urban said that the next event will concentrate on Polish customs and traditions.

"This time we will recreate some picturesque folk traditions," she said. "We will be making Marzanna, a straw doll representing evil winter, palma, Eastern decorations some 40 metres high, and kraszanki, painted eggs. The workshop will also track the traces of national patterns in the cosmopolitan art; from the hut in Lipniki to the halls of the most luxury palaces."

The workshops are free of charge, and are open to anyone – especially families with children and students – who are interested in sharing the best of British and Polish cultures.

The workshop takes place on Wednesday [29 March] at 6pm at the centre in King Street.



Fans outside Fulham's Famous Three Kings pub, united in a pioneering football initiative that brings football lovers together

Kings-sized gesture of football unity

THE prospect of supporters of eight of Europe's premier football coming together in the same pub might usually trigger a police task force, but the fans are united in a new soccer venture at a Fulham pub, writes Geoff Baker.

With the support of Britain's Best Sporting Pub, the Famous Three Kings in Fulham, eight London-based fan clubs have restored the principle of the game bringing communities together, by setting up a London Supporters League, the first of its kind in Europe.

London fans of Juventus,

Lazio, Roma, Porto, Lyon, AFC Fiorentina, Celtic and Aston Villa, are all playing in the inaugural league until 24th June, when five awards will be made including League Cup and Best Player, as voted by the opponent club at the end of each match. The opening ceremony was held last week at the pub in North End Road which was named Best Sports Pub in the 2016 Great British Pub Awards.

"We're as big on foreign games as we are on English football, welcoming all nationalities," said pub man-

ager Paul Eastwood. "This is such a positive signal to football players and fans all over the world, and it also shows the positive role British pubs actually play in uniting communities through sport."

Taking the competition seriously, league organisers are observing all the proper rules appointing qualified and independent referees to oversee fair play.

Chairmen of Italian Lazio and Roma fan clubs first came up with the idea, inviting other clubs and the Famous Three Kings to get

involved who together made the vision come true.

"The voluntary effort put into setting up the league speaks volumes for the sentiment of the competition," said Mr Eastwood.

"This is the first year of the event, but our ambition is to grow with more teams and be proud of a game that we know has so much good about it in connecting passionate people whilst promoting the health and benefits to society."

For more information, go to facebook.com/londonsupportersleague/

Easier to see GP or nurse

PEOPLE who live in Westminster can now book appointments to see a GP or practice nurse seven days a week.

Central London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has introduced evening and weekend services to help local people access routine medical appointments at times that suit them. Patients can arrange appointments with a GP or practice nurse between 6.30pm to 8pm, Monday to Friday, and 8am to 8pm at weekends. The appointments will be offered at Connaught Square Practice, Pimlico Health at the Marveln, and Westbourne Green Surgery.

The service is available to anyone who lives in or is registered with a GP in the Central London CCG area of Westminster.

To book an evening or weekend appointment patients will need to call their own GP practice during opening hours. Walk-in appointments will not be available. Patients that need to book an urgent GP appointment when their practice is closed should continue to call NHS 111.

Residents of Queen's Park and Paddington, which are linked to adjacent West London CCG, can access similar services by contacting their own GP practices. Doctors and nurses at the GP access centres will be able to see patients' medical records, with the patient's consent, to make the appointments as effective as possible. People will be able to use these appointments for routine care such as check-ups, small wound care, cervical screening, and contraceptive advice.

Dr Neville Pursell, Chair of Central London Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "We're delighted to be able to offer evening and weekend services to all of our residents. This helps busy local people to get convenient, local healthcare at the times that suit them." For more details go to: centrallondonccg.nhs.uk.

Sound plan to tackle rising volume of noise complaints

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

MONEY can't buy you love and it can't buy you peace and quiet either – Kensington and Chelsea, London's richest borough, has been outed as also the noisiest.

When it comes to noisy neighbours irritating other residents, the royal borough is top of the capital's poll of complaints from people wanting others to "TURN IT DOWN!"

Loud music, building work and buskers are the biggest cause of the 13,790 complaints that RBKC residents made to the council last year.

The statistics put Kensington and Chelsea top of the noisy neighbourhood poll as, with a population of 157,700, it is the equivalent of approximately 87.4 complaints per 1,000 locals.

Compiled by noise moni-



Kensington and Chelsea is London's noisiest borough

toring experts Cirrus Research via Freedom of Information requests of 33 London boroughs, the city overall had more than 143,000 noise nuisance complaints logged.

Westminster came second with 16,915 complaints within a population of around 242,300 – the equivalent of 69.8 complaints per 1,000 and Hammersmith and Fulham came in third with 8,963 complaints within a population of 179,000, or 50 complaints per 1,000.

Residents of the royal borough who "have had it up to

here" with all of the noise may want to consider a move to Lewisham, a much quieter borough where only 458 complaints were logged, or 1.5 per 1,000 in a population of over 297,000.

"The City of London provided an anomaly for us," said a spokesman for Cirrus Research.

"With only 8,072 residents living in the financial district but 1,022 complaints made, it would have meant a hefty 126.6 complaints per 1,000. However, with around 400,000 commuters coming into of-

fices on a daily basis, that takes the tally down to a more reasonable 2.5/1000 and that made more sense.

"We also asked the council how many of these complaints ended up being prosecuted or convicted. Only 96 cases ended up in court across London. The vast majority were resolved using mediation or warnings. Haringey came top here with 25 prosecutions."

But, making itself heard above all the din, Kensington and Chelsea Council is putting a brave face on the racket that is driving thousands of residents spare.

A council spokesman said: "We have one of the most responsive noise and nuisance departments in London, available seven days a week and through most of the night. Other boroughs don't work these hours so the complaints cannot be acted on.

"The residents are well aware of the high-quality service it provides make good use of it, and are happy with the response time and the outcomes.

"The reality is Kensington and Chelsea is one of the most densely populated boroughs where people live very close to one another. And as a result, any noise be it from neighbours or construction works, particularly from widespread basement construction, can be keenly felt.

"As a council we probably have some of the toughest regulations on construction noise in the country. The Code of Construction Practice introduced last year means that noisy works are not generally permitted at the weekend. If any resident does have an issue with noise they should contact the noise and nuisance department on 020 7361 3002."

Talk of the town



Perry Meadowcroft and Jimmy Barker as the Kray twins Photo by Paul Nicholas Dyke

Kray Kray

THE story of the Kray twins has long ignited intrigue in the public and has led to some hugely popular dramatisations, including the 1990 film *The Krays*, which starred Martin and Gary Kemp.

A new play, which explores the early lives of Ronnie and Reggie Kray will be staged at Theatre N16 in Balham next month.

Entitled simply *Kray Kray*, the production boasts a pair of rising stars, who are ready to take on the roles of the notorious East End gangsters. With a continued fascination for their less than salubrious existence, the show promises to provide an intriguing evening out.

Ronnie and Reggie Kray were two of London's most notorious gangsters. Basing their image and entire way of life around the iconic American gangster movies and the more classic Dickens 'baddies', the Kray twins managed to maintain a successful and theatrical career for many years.

The new play will star Perry Meadowcroft) as Reggie and Jimmy Barker as Ronnie and explores some of the early experiences of the famous duo, their subsequent influence on London crime, and their offer of a possible film deal

Kray Kray runs at Theatre N16 in Balham from April 11-29 - www.theatren16.co.uk

Stepping Out ★★★★★

IN football, if your star striker is injured, it's always interesting to see the different dynamic when a player comes off the bench to take their place. The whole shape of the team and their attitude to the match can completely change with the addition of some fresh legs and the same can be said for a team of performers, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

Just days before the first preview of *Stepping Out* at the Vaudeville Theatre, leading lady Tamzin Outhwaite broke her foot and had to be replaced by stage stalwart Anna-Jane Casey.

After watching the show at Richmond last year, I can safely say the stoppage time sub is a real game changer and has helped to turn Maria Friedman's production, which also stars Amanda Holden, from a theatrical plod into a snappy and infinitely charming portrayal of friendship.

The new star hoofer isn't the only modification since the touring production; in fact, it's really become a different show.

Gone are the slow scene changes (and thankfully, the dancing children) and what's left is a fast paced and punchy comedy brimming with appeal.

The plot of Richard Harris' play will be familiar to many, having enjoyed numerous past incarnations, including a film version, which starred Liza Minnelli and Julie Walters. It invites us to sit in on a weekly tap dancing class, led by former pro Mavis (Anna-Jane Casey).

The play has been regularly performed on the amateur circuit, a place where, for me, it is at its best, with people who meet once a week for an escape from their everyday lives portraying just that.

No, there is no real depth of character on display, but who really shows their inner feelings at a weekly class with virtual strangers? Don't most people put on a bit of façade?

The play does however highlight the need for friendship and the ups and downs we all go through when attempting to formulate bonds with strangers.

Tracey-Ann Oberman's voluptuous, overconfident Maxine and Lesley Vickerage's neurotic Andy sit at opposite ends of the group's demographic and yet all of the characters exhibit a desperate loneliness in one way or another.

Anna-Jane Casey, in sharp contrast to Tamzin Outhwaite, brings a much-needed sensitivity to Mavis. Her entire fibre screams out that she is a dancer, even when just showing basic steps and her solo dance to a mix tape of show tunes is a real highlight.



Amanda Holden as Vera in Stepping Out

At one point she ironically utters the line: "I understudied the lead a few times but never got on." In this production, she most certainly has got on and is absolutely outstanding.

Her sister, Natalie Casey (best known for starring alongside Sheridan Smith and Ralf Little in the sitcom, *Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crips*) is another welcome addition and brings a hilarious irreverence to Sylvia, while Sandra Marvin continues to provide a huge amount of self deprecating, mirthful warmth as Rose.

Amanda Holden's shiny Vera is particularly caricatured (money obsessed with OCD), but the actress plays on her public persona to great effect, while Judith Baker as accompanist Mrs Fraser, is a typical matriarchal community figure; cantankerous and unwavering in her views, but hiding a heart of gold.

What Harris does with this and his other famous community centred play, *Outside Edge*, is capture the simplicity of parochial life. He doesn't attempt to give the stories too much grit or depth but, by putting ordinary people at the heart of the action, he makes them delightfully relatable.

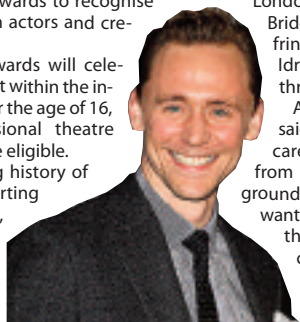
Stepping Out is running at the Vaudeville Theatre until June 17. You can visit the website for further details www.nimaxtheatres.com/vaudeville-theatre/stepping_out

The Stage launches new awards to encourage rising talent

THE world's oldest theatre publication, The Stage has announced new awards to recognise the best breakthrough actors and creatives in theatre.

The Stage Debut Awards will celebrate burgeoning talent within the industry and anyone over the age of 16, making their professional theatre debut in the UK, will be eligible.

The Stage has a long history of discovering and supporting breakthrough talent, having been the first to review Tom Hiddleston, pictured, in his theatrical debut in



2005 for Yorgjin Oxo - *The Man* at Theatre 503, London. The Stage also gave Phoebe Waller-Bridge The Stage Edinburgh Award for her fringe show *Fleabag* in 2013. Meanwhile, Idris Elba secured his first acting role through The Stage newspaper.

Alistair Smith, print editor of The Stage, said: "It's increasingly hard to break into a career in theatre - especially if you're not from a privileged or well-connected background. So, with The Stage Debut Awards we wanted to launch an awards that recognise the best performers, directors, writers, composers and designers from across the UK at the very start of their careers. The awards will serve as a launchpad

for our winners and nominees and will help theatre retain the best and most diverse talent at a time when it can be a real struggle for emerging talent to make a name for themselves.

Shortlisted nominees will be announced in August, and invited to a awards ceremony in, London on September 17, when the winners will be revealed.

Breakthrough talent can be nominated for consideration by the judging panel at thestage.co.uk/debuts. The deadline for nominations is July 30, 2017.

Categories open for nominations include: Best West End Debut, Best Writer and Best Designer as well as gongs for Best Actor in a Play, Best Actress in a Play and for leading roles in musicals.

Talk of the town



**Singing
Psychic-
Marysia
Trembecka**

Singing Psychic branches out

THE Singing Psychic has become a hugely popular fixture on the London entertainment scene. With a sold out and critically acclaimed run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and command performances at both the Brit Awards after party and Caen Film festival, the whacky spiritual Svengali is in high demand and continues to bring her unique style of comedy comprehension to venues across the capital and beyond, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

The woman behind the wig, Marysia Trembecka, is about to embark on a very different theatrical adventure as she premieres a brand new show at the Tristan Bates Theatre.

Entitled Queen of the F**king World, the show, which is still being developed, will centre on another strong female character and her creator assures me, she will be a no holds barred force of feminine fun.

"It's about women, sexual rights and about what a woman has to do to be the queen of her world," Marysia explains.

"It includes women like Cleopatra, Lady Macbeth, RuPaul and woman of today."

The much sought after entertainer also tells me the show is, in part, based on Chekov's *The Seagull* and, in particular, focuses on how women are perceived as they advance in years.

One of the main players in Chekov's famed work, is usually described as a 'fading actress' and Marysia says her leading lady will draw upon the character's traits and experiences: "Irina Arkadina is a woman who's on the top of her

game, but is looking down and realising that she's losing her youth and her beauty and therefore her power."

Marysia, who trained as a banker and worked as a bond trader for five years, has not left her more famous creation behind however and regularly performs at the Phoenix Artist Club on Charing Cross Road.

"The Singing Psychic is very much about being who you were born to be, how you resist parental pressure and become who you think you should be," Marysia explains. "She's a lot of fun to be with because she reads the music in your heart."

The Singing Psychic also continues to enthral audiences with her monthly game show at the club, which involves all manner of meriments including Jenga, and psychic bingo. "I get them to pick cards, Singing Psychic oracle cards and each one has a different song," Marysia said.

Queen of the F**king World will receive its premiere at the Tristan Bates Theatre on April 24 and will then be performed at the Phoenix Artist Club before heading off to Edinburgh in the summer.

Both shows and the original 2016 award nominated Singing Psychic Show will be doing the full run at Edinburgh Fringe 2017 and additional London dates will be announced soon.

You can join The Singing Psychic Monthly Game Show at the Phoenix Artist Club on Charing Cross Road.

If you would like any further information, you can visit the website www.marysiamtrembecka.com



Danny Mac will lead the cast of On the Town at the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre this summer

STRICTLY Come Dancing finalist Danny Mac will join the cast of the classic musical *On the Town* when it is performed at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre later this year.

The show, made famous by the 1949 film, which starred Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munshin, will also feature Fred Haig and Jeremy Taylor.

Siena Kelly, Lizzy Connolly and Miriam-Teak Lee take the roles of Ivy, Hildy and Claire, originally played in the film version by Vera-Ellen, Betty Garrett and Ann Miller.

Also joining the cast are Maggie Steed as Madame Dilly, Naoko Mori as Lucy Schmeeler, Rodney Earl Clarke as The Workman and Mark Heenehan as Judge Pitkin.

Danny Mac (Gabey) was a finalist in *Strictly Come Dancing* 2016 and, with dancing partner Oti Mabuse, has recently completed the *Strictly Come Dancing Live* arena tour. Following

his training at Arts Educational Schools he played Mark 'Dodger' Savage in *Hollyoaks*, and went on to join the cast of *Wicked* at the Victoria Apollo.

Completing the cast are: Michelle Andrews, Myles Brown, Matthew Caputo, Edward Chitticks, Lavinia Fitzpatrick, Cristina Hoey, James Leece, Jacob Maynard, Rachel Muldoon, Melissa Nettleford, Emily Ann Potter, Mollie Melia Redgrave, Lisa Ritchie, Barnaby Thompson, Sam Salter and Brandon Lee Sears.

Playing from May 19 to July 1 *On the Town* is based on a concept by Jerome Robbins with music by Leonard Bernstein and book and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, including the hit song "New York, New York (it's a helluva town)". It is directed and choreographed by Drew McOnie.

● THE season continues with Dick-

ens Uncovered. Artistic Director Timothy Sheader directs *A Tale of Two Cities* (July 7 – August 8), a new play by Matthew Dunster adapted from the original Dickens novel.

Developing open air theatre's programme of work made especially for families, Caroline Byrne will direct *Oliver Twist* created for everyone aged six and over adapted by Anya Reiss (July 17 – August 5).

Completing the 2017 season, Jesus Christ Superstar returns for just 41 performances (August 11 – September 16), giving audiences one last chance to see the production in its original home. The musical, directed by Timothy Sheader, won the Evening Standard Award for Best Musical, and is currently nominated for six Olivier Awards.

On the Town will run at Regent's Park Open Air 19th May – 01st July. You can find further details on the website openairtheatre.com

New Alan Ayckbourn play at The Old Vic



A NEW play by the internationally acclaimed playwright Alan Ayckbourn will be staged at The Old Vic later this year following its premiere at the Edinburgh International Festival.

Entitled, *The Divide*, the play is pitched as a tale for our turbulent times that unflinchingly explores a dystopian society of repression, insurrection and forbidden love.

The show is directed by Annabel Bolton, an associate director of The Old Vic, and will be presented in two parts.

Alan Ayckbourn, pictured, is an Olivier and Tony Award winning playwright who has created more than 80 plays, many of which have been produced in London's West End and around the world.

His work has been translated into more than 35 languages and has been performed on stage and television throughout the world, with major successes

including *How the Other Half Loves*, *Bedroom Farce*, and *A Chorus of Disapproval*.

The Divide runs at the King's Theatre as part of the Edinburgh International Festival over a two-week run (August 8 to August 20) before opening at The Old Vic. The Old Vic has a long history with the International Festival, having performed at the inaugural Edinburgh International Festival in 1947 and many times in the following decade.

Artistic Director Matthew Warchus comments: "The Old Vic was in residence at the very first Edinburgh International Festival and it's with great pleasure and hugely fitting that we celebrate our respective milestones by collaborating again to co-produce the world premiere of Alan Ayckbourn's ambitious and exciting new work, *The Divide*."

Further details to be announced soon www.oldvictheatre.com

Talk of the town

HIP-hop legends De La Soul will be joining this year's House of Common festival in Clapham alongside curators Madness and the recently announced David Rodigan.

The addition of De La Soul is a glimpse of the strength and breadth of this year's line-up. Madness' recent announcement of the event's return on Monday, August 28, also signaled what will be the Nutty Boys only London live date of 2017.

After their most recent album *And The Anonymous Nobody* was nominated for 'Best Rap Album' at this year's Grammys, De La Soul will be taking to the stage at House of Common to play a selection of material from their new album in and some true hip-hop classics from their genre-defining back catalogue. *And The Anonymous Nobody* (their first album in 12 years and crowdfunded to the tune of \$600,000) features contributions from Damon Albarn, David Byrne, Little Dragon, Snoop Dogg, 2 Chainz, Usher, Estelle, Jill Scott and more.

After the roaring success, frivolities and debauchery of last year's House of Common, a return to the scene of the crime was inevitable.



Madness are to host a second House of Common festival in Clapham this summer

A wonderful day in the sun saw Madness joined by Toots and the Maytals, David Rodigan, Lee 'Scratch' Perry, Norman Jay and more, and this year's line-up promises to deliver all this and much much more.

Located in the heart of the capital, Clapham Common is Madness' spiritual

home (south of the river, at least) and for good reason. It's an oasis of peace amid the busy traffic of South West London, it is a vibrant summer destination, famed for its annual music gigs and festivals.

Madness say: "Madheads, carnival heads and madkids united to revel in the sunshine on Clapham Common for the first ever House of Common in 2016. It was the highlight of our mad year and we're now spending these cold hours and days planning how to make 2017's

even better. We'll worry about the entertainment, you bring the sunshine."

More artists, stages and news of family-friendly areas will be to be revealed in the coming weeks, with House of Common 2017 shaping up to be one essential events of the summer.

House of Common 2017 will take place on Clapham Common on Monday August 28. You can find more details on the website www.houseofcommon.co.uk



De La Soul will join the line up for House of Common

Oh, to be Seventeen again

Seventeen Lyric Hammersmith ★★★

I'M sure there are times when we would all like to turn back the clock - just go back to our youth for a day or so - to when the future was laid out in front of us like a sea of opportunity and the stresses of adult life hadn't yet reared their ugly heads, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

Matthew Whittet's *Seventeen* at the Lyric Hammersmith gives some veteran actors the opportunity to do just that in a production, which sees them revisit their final day at secondary school and experience again the excitement and trepidation faced by those on the cusp of adulthood.

The cleverly conceived play casts actors in their sixties to portray teenagers, so we experience a dual plot, where students look back on their school days, while retirees reminisce about their lives.

Tom Scutt's set design, comprised of an oversized playground, complete with an infinity symbol shaped climbing frame, further adds to the ingenious symbolism. And the costumes and props make time feel even

more muddled.

There's a fine line between making an audience believe you are an adolescent and doing a caricatured performance. In this instance, actors' well-honed rhythmic delivery of lines and graceful movements just don't fit with the young adults they are attempting to portray.

Sarah Ball as the outrageous younger sister Lizzy however, gets the movement spot on and when embroiled in a lip sync battle, grinds and pumps like a real teen queen.

Mike Grady is also excellent and captures the awkwardness and self-loathing of a young adult on the edge of society in heart breaking fashion.

Seventeen feels like the first episode of a kid's television series; there's a bit of a love triangle and everyone is contemplating their future, but with no real conclusions.

The topsy-turvy fashion, mixed soundtrack and 'adulthood' will make you contemplate your use of time and its relevance to your own continued journey through life.

Seventeen runs at the Lyric Hammersmith until April 8 - lyric.co.uk/shows/seventeen/

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Capital nights



Tall Ships back to fulfil their potential

EVERYBODY likes a trier and we here at the LWN like them more than most. So too do the fans of Tall Ships, for whom the boat has come in again.

Following a series of what any master of understatement would call “disappointments”, Tall Ships are back and at the helm of their destiny to be a hugely successful band of rich promise, with the release of *Petrichor*, the new single from their eagerly-awaited second album *Impressions*.

Frontman Ric Phethean says: “It started as a collection of one-liners trying to distil the sense of detachment I was feeling at the time of writing. Whilst working on the song, I came across the word *petrichor*, which describes the scent you get after a downpour during a long dry spell.

“This felt like a pretty apt word to describe the song and that feeling of relief that comes with externalising and talking about all the problems we carry around within us.”

Tall Ships have carried that weight a bit more than most.

“It all just crumbled away for a little while,” says Phethean, speaking of

the period following their acclaimed debut album, 2012’s *Everything Touching*, which saw them championed by both the BBC and NME, selling out shows across the UK, and headlining the BBC Introducing Stage at Reading & Leeds Festivals.

After five years of hard graft building towards the album - enjoying industry plaudits and ever-growing audiences - they found themselves with no management and no record label, forced to confront the fact it all could’ve been a false start.

A lesser band would have packed it in and moved on; that band would not be Tall Ships.

“We were emotionally, physically and financially spent. We needed a break for a while to pay off debts we’d accumulated, recover from health issues and simply do our own thing,” said Phethean.

But that’s all in the past now and the band - Phethean, bassist Matt Parker, drummer Jamie Bush and keyboardist Jamie Field - opted to go it alone, taking command of every element of their art. Retreating to Field’s home on the edge of Dartmoor, they adopted a similarly DIY recording process to that which birthed *Everything Touching* years back.

Now, with their tour gigs selling out everywhere, Tall Ships have added a new show on May 5th at London’s Bush Hall.

“We recorded and engineered all of the new album, the DIY nature of it is one of necessity, not aesthetic,” says Field.

What emerged speaks for itself. *Impressions* bristles with the most ambitious and anthemic music the group has ever written, marking them out once more as one of the UK’s most promising rock bands, but one worn with the battle scars of doubt, fragility and lessons learned the hard way.

“The album title references indentations that are left in us from the pressure and the knocks we inevitably receive while being alive. Life can be an incredibly difficult thing at times and the tragic events, joyous events and tender moments all leave their marks upon us,” said Phethean.

“If someone had just come to us and given us the money to make a second album right away, it would’ve been completely different. It’s a product of everything that’s happened over the past four years.”

INTERNATIONAL treasures British Sea Power release their first new material in four years on March 31st, with a fan-funded album that sounds like just what the doctor ordered for the Brexit blues.

Melodic, direct and brimming with emotional urgency, *Let The Dancers Inherit The Party* is an album inspirationally-described as “where rock muscularity joins inseparably with pop immediacy like a crate of the finest sparkling wine exploding inside a Marshall stack.”

We all want a bit of that, although probably wise to unplug at the mains first.

“Across their entire history, British Sea Power have taken a broad and panoramic perspective that’s drawn on historical events while mirroring the ageless wonders of the natural world,” said their spokesman.

“Let The Dancers Inherit The Party’s twelve songs cover subject matters ranging from the stars in the night sky to the methodology of media manipulation. Both consistently contemporary and consistent in mood, the album alludes to a world full of chaos and disorder whilst seeking to answer that world with optimism and hope.”

What hope’s that, then?

Guitarist Martin Noble explains: “The album was made to a background of politicians perfecting the art of unabashed lying, of social-media echo chambers, of click-bait and electronic Tonka Toys to keep us entertained and befuddled.

“All this can easily make the in-

dividual feel futile. But I think we’ve ended up addressing this confusion in an invigorating way, rather than imprisoning the listener in melancholy.

“Musically, it’s our most direct album and maybe the first one where we maintain a coherent mood from start to finish.

“Perhaps a little clarity isn’t a bad thing at this point. There wasn’t a plan to create an album with any particular subject matter but we’ve kind of ended up with a case of ‘think global, act local’ - an album where individuals are dealing with their domestic and personal lives against a background of uncontrollable international lunacy.”

Recorded in Sussex, London and on the Isle of Skye, it follows the band’s five studio albums for the great Rough Trade Records - a catalogue of releases that saw BSP become the longest continually-signed band in the label’s history.

The entire recording of the album was funded by the band’s remarkably dedicated audience. Money was raised via a multi-faceted programme with pledges ranging from pre-orders for a limited-edition box-set version of the album to paying £1,500 for a tattoo that gives entry to all future BSP shows.

Let The Dancers Inherit The Party sees the band return to the kind of exhilarating and bright-minded guitar music that has seen them nominated for the Mercury Music Prize and which has drawn praise from David Bowie, Lou Reed and the National Maritime Museum, alongside Doctor Who, Harry Potter and Sherlock Holmes (Peter Capaldi, Daniel Radcliffe and Benedict Cumberbatch have all declared themselves fans).

British Sea Power will play at 02 Shepherd’s Bush Empire on April 12th.

Geoff Baker takes to the high seas in Tall Ships with British Seapower and Plastic Mermaids

Outrageous Plastic Mermaids in the Pickle

THE five-piece experimentalists Plastic Mermaids, hailed by no-less of a thun-

dering fan than *The Sunday Times* as “pop majesty”, will be gigging at The Pickle Fac-

tory on May 3.

And they are promising that the show will be “outrageous”.

The Isle Of Wight Mermaids will be performing songs from their debut album, which will get its highly-anticipated release in the autumn.

The band has spent the past four months holed up in a home-built studio on the Isle Of Wight, recording the album in a converted barn in the grounds of brothers Douglas and Jamie Richards’ childhood home.

Lead vocalist Douglas said, “It feels quite special to be recording our debut album in the garden of the house in

which we spent the first six years of our lives.

“I want to be more outrageous and care less what people will think. It’s so easy to lose yourself worrying about other people’s opinions and lose sight of why you like making music.”

Best to ignore all others’ opinions mate. If the critics could do what they carp about then they would, “those who can, do etc...”

Plastic Mermaids are: Douglas Richards (vocals, piano, cowbell), Jamie Richards (guitar, drum machine, samples, vocals), Chris Newnham (guitar), Tom Farren (bass) and Chris Jones (drums).



Plastic Mermaids will play songs from their debut album



British Sea Power

Capital nights



Jim Kerr and Charlie Burchill are back on the road

Simple Minds at London Palladium

Simple Minds are going back on the road, performing at the London Palladium on May 27th and at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane on June 4th.

To mark the forthcoming release of a new album, *Simple Minds Acoustic*, the band will be performing their career-spanning collection of songs acoustically for the very first time, and will be joined by special guest The Anchoress.

The tour and new album follows several years in which the band has gone from strength-to-strength, becoming more relevant than ever; their 2014 album *Big Music* received across the board praise, with Mojo magazine declaring it "their best album in 30 years".

Simple Minds Acoustic continues the band's artistic quest with a one-off album release of stripped down and reimagined songs, covering the whole of their eclectic and illustrious career.

"On *Simple Minds Acoustic* the band have found a way of doing the acoustic thing without losing their essence, and a dozen Simple Minds songs loved by millions now sound, more organic and even more likely to leave a lasting imprint. The synths are no more – but the Celtic soul remains," said the band's spokesman.

"The fact that the album sessions entailed a sentimental return to their Glasgow roots for Jim and guitarist Charlie Burchill helped, with some songs recorded in Gorbals Studio, a former railway workers' social club located a

stone's throw from the high-rise estates of the city's South Side where the pair took their first musical steps.

"It was in this building that Jim and Charlie played their first gig, as teenagers in a school glam-rock band, and emotions were understandably high on their return."

The genesis of *Simple Minds Acoustic* can be traced back to a rare live session the band recorded for the *Chris Evans Breakfast Show* in September 2014, promoting *Big Music*. The reaction, to the band's surprise, was rave reviews.

"With this in mind, the band began 2016 by putting together an acoustic set for the Zermatt Unplugged Festival in the Swiss Alps," said the spokesman.

"Having spent weeks working on meticulously layered acoustic arrangements of their best-loved songs for that 90-minute performance, they began hatching plans to record them.

"With Jim and Charlie augmented by regular bassist Ged Grimes, backing vocalist Sarah Brown, acoustic guitarist Gordy Goudie and percussionist Cherisse Osei, they temporarily halted the recording of the forthcoming sequel to *Big Music* – a new album that will be anything but acoustic" – and gave their complete commitment to an all-encompassing acoustic project. The recorded versions stick to many of the ideas forged for that Swiss show, with the synthetic sounds of old replaced with warmer effects.

"As a group who formed in

the punk era and found their mojo through a shared love of Bowie, Kraftwerk and electronic dance, Simple Minds are not natural acoustic adventurers, but they have done a remarkable job here, adding fresh nuance to brilliant songs without trampling on sacred memories."

Jim Kerr added: "The concert stage is where Simple Minds do their best work – it is where we forged our distinctive live reputation. For that reason we look forward immensely to taking *Simple Minds Acoustic* out on tour. Don't be fooled by the acoustic tag, however! These shows will be as energetic and passionate as ever.

"With a great live line-up and a set-list full of iconic Minds songs, it is bound to be a unique and memorable experience for both band and fans."

Simple Minds have just released the video to the first single to be taken from the new album, *Promised You A Miracle*, which features fellow Scot KT Tunstall and is said to be "swaggering".

Honeyblood date

MORE from Glasgow. The two-piece Honeyblood, hailed by MOJO as "tipped for immortality", will end their new UK & Ireland tour at Koko on June 16th.

Tickets are selling like the clappers for the gig by frontwoman Stina Tweeddale and drummer Cat Myers, who will be performing tracks from their new album *Babes Never Die*, including the title track single with the video that has set YouTube on fire.

Shot across their recent world tour, the single video includes footage shot by many different photographers and fans, capturing the duo's incendiary live performances, as well as behind-the-scenes snippets from the band's own tour diary.

"It perfectly captures the raw intensity of their live show as well as a glimpse into the world of Stina and Cat backstage and touring," said their spokesman.

Commenting on the video, Stina said: "It was filmed over three months of shows throughout the US and UK. It's a real snapshot of that tour and what it's like for us



on the road. Most of the travel and backstage footage was filmed by Cat and I on our phones. However, we could not have made it without great folk getting involved and filming at the shows."

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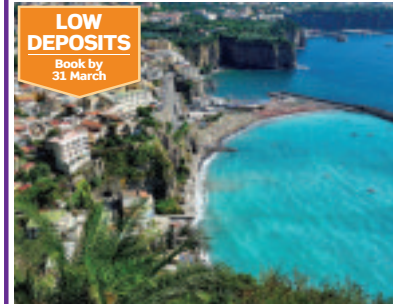
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Wine&dine

Teething probs but revamped pub offers a touch of class

SET in the city's historic County Hall and just a stone's throw from the capital's tourist epicentre, a newly revamped Slug and Lettuce is bringing a bit of class to the South Bank's dining scene, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

Slug and Lettuce is fast becoming one of the nation's favourite chains, with their determination for design excellence and a desire to provide exceptional cuisine at affordable prices putting them firmly in the driving seat when it comes to the competitive restaurant market.

The County Hall venue has recently received a £350,000 revamp, which has transformed the interior giving it a modern decor, which is minimal yet elegant. I visited on a drizzly half-term afternoon, when the area was buzzing with families looking for a place to recover from the thrill of the surrounding attractions.

I first chose some soft tacos with roasted vegetables and halloumi (grilled halloumi and roasted beets and roots with jalapeno served in soft corn tacos and dressed with spiced lemon dressing, £5.69), which was hearty and hot, while my companion munched on some classic chicken goujons (served with a sticky barbecue sauce and a tasty pineapple and mango salsa, £5.49).

I was then treated to a beautifully prepared sea bass, freshly grilled and served with a glorious super food salad (£13.29), while my friend chowed down on a Slug and Lettuce favourite, smothered chicken (grilled chicken breast topped with bacon and cheese, smothered in barbecue sauce, served with peas and skinny fries, £9.29). Both were well prepared and beautifully displayed.

We then challenged our sweet tooth and shared a huge partini (a cocktail of vanilla ice cream, salted caramel and chocolate ganache,

RESTAURANT REVIEW: SLUG AND LETTUCE, COUNTY HALL



with a crisp meringue, raspberry coulis and whipped double cream, drizzled in salted caramel sauce and finished with curl wafers, £9.99), which we struggled to finish but which was a real treat.

With a couple of the famous cocktails (a classic porn star Martini with absolute vanilla vodka, passoa liquor, caramel syrup, sugar syrup, fresh lemon juice, pineapple juice and passion fruit with a shot of prosecco on the side and a new Chambers Royale, with

Chambord black raspberry liqueur and prosecco) we felt thoroughly replete.

Sadly the visit was marred slightly by the women's toilet being out of order and the service was not as good as I have been given previously. But all in all I would recommend this newly refurbished restaurant. And once the teething problems are resolved, I'm sure it will become a popular addition to the group.

You can view menus and find out more details on the website slugandlettuce.co.uk.

Too much cheese 'raises cancer risk'

EATING too much cheese can raise the risk of breast cancer by more than 50 per cent, according to new research.

A study of more than 3,000 women found those who consumed a lot were much more likely to develop the disease.

Scientists reviewed more than a decade of dietary surveys completed by the participants, almost 2,000 of whom had been diagnosed with breast cancer.

A higher intake of cheese, especially Cheddar and cream cheese, was linked with a 53 per cent increased risk.

Cheddar is Britain's favourite cheese, with the famous Somerset product claiming about half the annual £2.75 billion UK market.

On the other hand, dairy products as a whole were also associated with a 15 per cent lower risk.

This was almost entirely due to eating yogurt, which made breast cancer 39 per cent less likely, reports Current Developments in Nutrition.

Dr Susan McCann, of Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, New York, said: "Dairy foods are complex mixtures which include nutrients and non-nutrient substances that could potentially influence cancer cause, including breast cancer."

"Specific dairy foods may contribute to breast cancer risk in women, although risk varies by source of dairy."

The study reported higher intakes of yogurt were associated with reduced risk of breast cancer and higher intakes of American, Cheddar, and cream cheeses were associated with a marginally significant increased risk.

Dr McCann said: "Dairy foods are important sources of several nutrients that could favourably impact cancer risk, including vitamin D, calcium, conjugated linoleic acid, butyrate and other nutrients and phytochemicals, but also contain substances, such as IGF-1 and other growth hormones, that may adversely affect risk."

"Future studies are warranted to confirm the protective potential of yogurt in cancer."

Although a good source of calcium, cheese can also be high in fat. When it comes to the impact of dairy foods on breast cancer risk, the study suggests they can be just as conflicting.

Breast cancer is the most common form of the disease in women in the UK, with more than 50,000 diagnosed each year. It claims nearly 11,500 lives annually.

Diet is known to play a key role in risk. Recent research has linked a poor diet during adolescence and early adulthood to a greater risk of breast cancer among younger women.

Although some dairy products may be considered unhealthy, research assessing the impact on breast cancer has produced inconsistent results.

Some studies have linked dairy intake to greater risk, while others have indicated the opposite.

Dr McCann said this was "probably not unexpected" as they could potentially influence breast cancer through either increases or decreases in risk.

In the study, her team reviewed data on 1,941 and 1,237 women with and without the disease, respectively, who completed a food-frequency questionnaire.

This detailed the amount of total dairy products and individual dairy products – including cheese, yogurt and milk – they consumed each month.

When making their calculations they took into account factors including age, body mass index, menopausal status and a family history of breast cancer.

The researchers said further studies are needed but they believe their current findings shed some light.

A loaf of bread does cost the Earth – literally

A LOAF of bread really does cost the Earth, a new study found. Each year Britons munch their way through 12 million loaves and it is a staple on many a home's dinner table. Now University of Sheffield scientists have analysed the environmental impact of our love of bread, rolls and pastry.

The university's Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures looked at the complete process from growing and harvesting the wheat to milling the grain, producing the flour, baking the bread and preparing it for the bakery shelves.

The study found the ammonium nitrate fertiliser used to grow the wheat contributes more than two fifths – 43 per cent – of greenhouse-gas emissions, dwarfing all other processes in the supply chain.

Around three fifths of all grain and vegetable crops rely on fertilisers and 100 million tonnes are used globally every year.

AgriFood research fellow Dr Liam Goucher said: "Consumers are usually unaware of the environmental impacts embodied in the products they purchase – particularly in the case of food, where the main concerns are usually over health or animal welfare."

"There is perhaps awareness of pollution caused by plastic packaging – but many people will be surprised at the wider environmental impacts revealed in this study."

"We found in every loaf there is embodied global warming resulting from the fertiliser applied to farmers' fields to increase their wheat harvest. This arises from the large amount of energy needed to make the fertiliser and from nitrous oxide gas released when it is degraded in the soil."

Providing cheap and plentiful food to the world's booming populations while protecting the environment is one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century.

Although fertilisers dramatically boost the growth of plants and vegetables, increasing yields and meeting demand, they consist of substances and chemicals such as methane, carbon dioxide, ammonia and nitrogen.

The emissions from these substances in synthetic fertilisers contribute to greenhouse gases, according to the study published in *Nature Plants*.

Chief research adviser Professor Peter Horton said: "Our findings bring into focus a key part of the food security challenge – resolving the major conflicts embedded in the agrifood system, whose primary purpose is to make money, not to provide sustainable global food security."

"High agricultural productivity – necessary for profit for farmers, agribusinesses and food retailers, whilst also keeping prices low for consumers – currently requires high levels of application of relatively cheap fertilisers."

"With more than 100 million tonnes of fertiliser used globally each year to support agricultural production, this is a massive problem – but environmental impact is not costed within the system and so there are currently no real incentives to reduce our reliance on fertiliser. How to achieve sustainable global food security is not only a technical question but a political economic one, and requires interdisciplinary research of the kind we do here at Sheffield."

The data analysed in the study was processed using

an advanced life-cycle assessment tool – SCENAT – developed by Professor Lenny Koh, director of the Advanced Resource Efficiency Centre at the university's Management School.

Prof Koh said: "This tool handles large and complex data sets and yielding data on the environmental impact, including greenhouse gas emissions of all the stages in the supply chain," said Professor Koh.

"The tool identifies the processes that yield the most impact – the hotspots."

"The findings raise a very important issue – whose responsibility is it to bring about the implementation of these interventions: the fertiliser manufacturer, the farmer, the retailer or the consumer?"

"There is a growing recognition for a range of industrial processes of the notion of extended producer responsibility – the producer being responsible for downstream impact, expanded to the idea of shared producer and consumer responsibility."

"The consumer is key, whether being persuaded to pay more for a greener product or by applying pressure for a change in practice."

Yet there are steps farmers can take to mitigate the damage caused to the planet.

Professor Duncan Cameron, co-director of the Centre for Translational Plant and Soil Science explains: "The fertiliser problem is solvable – through improved agronomic practices."

"These harness the best of organic farming combined with new technologies to better monitor the nutritional status of soils and plants and to recycle waste and with the promise of new wheat varieties able to utilise soil nitrogen more efficiently."

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We have a special Live Opera event on Mother's Day 26th March between 12pm and 3pm as well as a special cocktail called the "Hugo" available just for that day.

There will be one free cocktail for the Mother and other family members.

Twitter and Instagram: @TWIDBar

Opening Times: Monday-Sunday: midday-3pm and 6pm-12pm (10pm on Sundays!)

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Property

Know your rights when renting

If you rent a property in Somerset, it's a good idea to stay on top of national lettings legislation so you don't fall foul of dodgy landlords.

Energy Efficiency regulations

Rental properties must, in general, achieve at least an 'E' rating in their Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) by April 2018 - or landlords may not be permitted to let them out. Landlords must order an EPC before they market their property, so ask to see one before you sign on the dotted line. Failing to do so could mean you'll be overpaying on your energy bills.

Electrical safety

The government's recent white paper on housing outlined an intention to tackle the issue of electrical safety. Although no details have yet been announced, new laws are expected in April and could demand landlords prove their property has had its electrical installation check and that electrical appliances have been subject to a PAT test before it can be let. Electrical safety is a serious issue, so make sure you ask your landlord if they have the relevant documentation.

Gas safety

A recent study by Gas Safe Register found more than one in five privately rented homes feature at least one unsafe gas appliance. Landlords are legally required to have a gas safety check carried out by a professional and provide tenants with a gas record at the start of their tenancy (and every 12 months thereafter). 5) Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

Landlords are legally required to install and maintain at least one working smoke alarm on each storey of tenanted properties, as well as a carbon monoxide alarm in any room containing a solid fuel burning appliance. This became law in October 2015, and can be a matter of life and death.

Maintenance requests

The Deregulation Act in 2015 introduced a ruling that landlords must deal with maintenance or repair requests from tenants in a prescribed way - or face being unable to regain possession of their property. If you need something repaired your landlord must now provide an adequate response in writing, detailing their intentions and a proposed timescale for any work.



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Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA
Telephone Box Outside
123 King Street London
2017/00964/TEL56

Installation of a new telephone kiosk to replace the existing.

Telephone Box Outside
123 King Street London
2017/00965/ADV

Display of an internally illuminated digital advertisement panel to the rear of the replacement telephone kiosk.

Flat A First Floor 50
Inglethorpe Street London
SW6 6NT 2017/00759/FUL

Erection of a front roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of a new window to replace the existing window in the rear roof slope; replacement of existing roof slates with new cement fibre slates.

184 Munster Road London
SW6 6AU 2017/00791/FUL

Further excavation and enlargement of the existing basement to include the installation of new front pavement lights.

Hammersmith Palais 242
Shepherd's Bush Road London
SW6 7NL 2017/00884/VAR

Variation of condition 21 (Student accommodation management scheme) of planning permission ref: 2012/02415/VAR granted 12th December 2012 to allow the submission of a general public management plan for use of the property during the summer months.

1 - 3 Michael Road London
SW6 2ER 2016/01448/FUL

Demolition of existing foundry (Class B2) buildings and redevelopment of the site to include the erection of a part one/ two / three /four storey plus basement building, comprising 1 x office unit (Class B1) and 1 x retail/financial / professional services unit (Class A1/A2) at ground floor level, and 12 self contained flats between ground and third floor level, 10 basement car parking spaces, associated cycle and refuse storage.

(These proposals have been amended: the footprint of the building has been reduced at third floor and set back from adjacent properties in Kings Road; the internal floorspace of the proposed units has been reconfigured to increase the provision of flats from 9 to 12 with a contribution to off-site affordable housing provision).

20 Waldemar Avenue London
SW6 5NA 2017/00690/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of a rear extension at second and third floor levels, on top of the existing back addition; erection of glazed screening around the flat roof at third floor level for use as a roof terrace; conversion of the first, second and third floor levels to provide 1 x 1 bedroom and 1 x three bedroom self-contained flats.

Link Unit Outside
59 Goldhawk Road London
2017/00633/ADV

Display of a free standing internally illuminated digital advertisement panel with a telephone to replace the existing advertisement panel.

424 And 426 Fulham Palace Road London SW6 6HX
2017/00810/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension including the installation of a door and a Juliet balcony to No. 426; installation of 3no. rooflights in the front roof slope to No. 426; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition to No. 426; installation of a rooflight to the side roof slope of the back addition at second floor level of No. 426; installation of French doors and a Juliet balcony to replace existing to the rear elevation at first floor level of No. 426; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side and rear of the existing back addition to No.424; installation of an external staircase to the rear elevation from first floor to ground floor level to No.s 424 and 426; and replacement of all windows to the front, rear and side elevations to No.s 424 and 426; conversion of first and second floor level of no. 426 Fulham Palace Road into 1 x two bedroom and 1 x one bedroom self-contained flats.

Flat 6 Holkhams House
Sulgrave Road London
W6 7QN 2017/00850/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height by 300mm; removal of part of the roof of back addition to form a

roof terrace with glass screens at second floor level.

4 St Peter's Villas London
W6 9BQ 2017/00619/FUL

Erection of rear extensions at ground floor and basement level; alterations to the roof of ground floor back addition to include the installation of a new rooflight; installation of new windows to the side elevation and new doors to the rear elevation at ground floor level; formation of new steps, metal balustrade and handrail in the rear garden; associated external alterations.

44 Reporton Road London
SW6 7JR 2017/00656/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height; installation of two rooflights in the front roof slope.

260 - 262 Uxbridge Road
London W12 7JA
2017/00381/FUL

Retention of an extraction duct to the side elevation of the rear extension at No. 262 and to the rear elevation of No. 264 at first and second floor levels.

68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80 And
82 Bramber Road London
W14 9PB 2017/00801/FUL

Erection of additional flat at ground level to property Nos 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80 and 82 Bramber Road.

Link Unit Outside White City
Service Station Wood Lane
London 2017/00640/ADV

Display of a free standing internally illuminated digital advertisement panel with a telephone to replace the existing advertisement panel.

Link Unit Outside Yonex House
74 Wood Lane London
W12 7RH 2017/00641/ADV

Display of a free standing internally illuminated digital advertisement panel with a telephone to replace the existing advertisement panel.

Link Unit Outside Broadway
Shopping Centre
Hammersmith Broadway
London W6 9YD
2017/00642/ADV

Display of a free standing internally illuminated digital advertisement panel with a telephone to replace the existing advertisement panel.

15 Lillie Street London
W12 0RU 2017/00691/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; increasing the height of the ground floor extension.

60 Carthorpe Road London
W6 0DX 2017/00867/FUL

Erection of a front roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of the existing back addition.

48 Lysia Street London
SW6 6NG 2017/00922/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 2no. rooflights in the front roof slope; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a part one part two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level to the side and rear of the existing back addition; and excavation of the rear garden to form a lightwell, in connection with the creation of a new basement.

501 Fulham Road London
SW6 5UA 2017/00937/FUL

Installation of a new shopfront to the front and side elevation; and installation and repositioning of a new entrance door to the front elevation to replace existing.

184 Munster Road London
SW6 6AU 2017/00944/FUL

Change of use of the basement and ground floor level from retail use (Class A1) into an office use (Class B1).

Flat A 46 Cranbury Road
London SW6 2NT
2017/00820/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height by 300 mm; erection of a rear extension at third floor level over part of the existing back addition; and installation of 2no. rooflights in the front roof slope.

Mathews Community Hall
12 Margravine Road London
W6 8HJ 2017/00765/FR3

Replacement of existing double glazed timber casement windows and timber external doors with new Rehau PVCu casement windows and doors; formation of a new disabled access ramp with handrails to eastern elevation; extension of existing railings and installation of a new entrance gate to southern elevation.

19 And 19A Grimston Road
London SW6 3QR
2017/00784/FUL

Change of use from a commercial workshop (B2) to a one bedroom self contained residential unit (C3), including removal of the existing 3 roller doors to front elevation with a new residential door and opaque double glazed windows, exposure and repainting of existing brickwork, and demolition of part of the building

to the rear in connection with the provision of private amenity space.

49 Ravenscourt Gardens
London W6 0TU
2017/00808/FUL

Installation of new double glazed timber patio doors with fanlight to replace the existing doors at ground floor level and installation of new double glazed timber framed sash window to replace the existing window at first floor level to the front elevation; replacement of 1no window at first floor level and 1no window at ground floor level with new double glazed timber framed sash windows to the side of rear back additions.

42 Dewhurst Road London
W14 0ES 2017/00948/FUL

Further excavation and enlargement of the existing basement to form a rear lightwell; installation of new French doors and windows to the front lightwell at basement level.

9 Daisy Lane London
SW6 3DD 2017/00962/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; partial demolition and rebuilding of single storey rear extension; excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; erection of a single storey outbuilding following the demolition of the existing outbuilding in the rear garden.

20 Avonmore Road London
W14 8RR 2017/00976/FUL

Increasing height of the existing boundary wall along the West side of the site at second & third floor levels.

20 Filmer Road London
SW6 7BW 2017/00836/FUL

Change of use of existing commercial premises (Class B1) at ground floor level with ancillary storage at basement level to a two bedroom residential maisonette (Class C3); replacement of existing ground floor shopfront to the front elevation; replacement of existing ground floor rear entrance door with a set of bi-folding French doors; alterations to the rear lightwell and repositioning of external stairs from basement to ground floor level.

28 And 28A Harwood Road
London SW6 4AT
2017/00918/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension at ground floor level, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of part of the rear garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; and conversion of the existing building comprising of 2no self-contained flats into a single family dwellinghouse.

28 And 28A Harwood Road
London SW6 4AT
2017/00920/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level on top of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension at ground floor level, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of part of the rear garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; and conversion of the existing building comprising of 2no self-contained flats into a single family dwellinghouse.

Telephone Call Box Outside
156 Uxbridge Road London
2017/00966/TEL56

Installation of a new telephone kiosk to replace the existing.

Telephone Call Box Outside
156 Uxbridge Road London
2017/00967/ADV

Display of an internally illuminated digital advertisement panel to the rear of the replacement telephone kiosk.

Flat C Second Floor 383
Fulham Palace Road London
SW6 6TA 2017/00351/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of two rooflights in the front roof slope; erection of glass screening around flat roof at second floor level in connection with its use as a terrace.

85 Finlay Street London
SW6 6HF 2017/00715/FUL

Excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the basement; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition.

Flat 7 15 Girdlers Road
London W14 0PS
2016/05450/FUL

Replacement of existing balcony doors with new double glazed French doors to the front elevation at first floor level.

15 Uxbridge Road London
W12 7LJ 2017/00651/FUL

Erection of a two storey rear extension at first and second floor level, to the side of the existing back addition; in connection with the conversion of first, second, and third

floors from 2no. residential flats to 3 no. residential flats.

Adjacent To T W I House
23 Eyot Gardens London
W6 8TB 2017/00899/FUL

Installation of 3no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 3no. designated 'Electric Vehicles Only' parking bays.

49 Hestercombe Avenue
London SW6 5LL
2017/00839/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension, including a door with a Juliet balcony; installation of 3no. rooflights in the front roof slope; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition; and excavation to enlarge the existing basement.

37 Rosaville Road London
SW6 7BN 2017/00876/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level, over part of the existing back addition; and excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of a new basement.

25 Rylett Road London
W12 9SS 2017/00558/FUL

Erection of a rear dormer roof extension; erection of a two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level; erection of a single storey extension to side of main building.

6 North End Crescent London
W14 8TQ 2016/04366/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition (Amended description).

350 King Street London
W6 0RX 2017/00776/FUL

Change of use of the existing building from office (Class B1) into 2 x one bedroom, 5 x two bedroom and 1 x three bedroom self-contained flats (Class C3); erection of a rear extension at first floor level over part of the existing back addition; formation of a roof terrace at first floor level; partial demolition of the ground floor extension in connection with the formation of new garden terraces, new windows and door openings; erection of a new cycle storage connected to the side of the main building with entrance gates; demolition of glazed extension to the rear of no. 358 King Street to provide additional car parking; associated external alterations to the windows and doors; associated landscaping.

19 Grimston Road London
SW6 3QR 2017/00862/FUL

Change of use from a commercial workshop (B2) into residential (Class C3); erection of a part one, part two storey extension at first and second floor level; excavation under the footprint of the building to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement; erection of metal railings around the perimeter of the front and rear lightwells; partial demolition of the ground floor to include the installation of new doors and windows to replace the existing roller shutter doors at the front elevation; alterations to the roof of the ground floor; conversion of the basement, ground, first and second floor level to provide 2 x two bedroom self-contained flats; associated external alterations.

3 Beaumont Crescent London
W14 9LX 2017/00872/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of rear extension at lower floor level; formation of a roof terrace at third floor level; installation of a new window following the removal of existing door at lower ground floor level to the front elevation; installation of a new window at second floor level, replacement of 2no windows with a new window at ground floor level to the rear elevation; conversion of the dwellinghouse into 5 x one bedroom and 3 x two bedroom self-contained flats.

530 Fulham Road London
SW6 5NR 2017/00894/FUL

Change of use of the ground floor from B1 use into a one bedroom self-contained flat (Class C3); erection of an additional floor at roof level in connection with the creation of a 1 x one bedroom self-contained flat; formation of a roof terrace at fourth floor level; installation of a window to replace the existing door at ground floor level to the eastern elevation.

Shepherd's Bush Library
6 Wood Lane London W12 7BF
2017/00847/TEL56

Installation of a telephone kiosk.

Shepherd's Bush Underground
Station Uxbridge Road London
W12 8ND 2017/00852/TEL56

Installation of a telephone kiosk.

Flat First Floor 38 Paddenswick
Road London W6 0UB
2017/00849/FUL

Erection of a rear dormer roof extension; installation of a rooflight in the front and in the side roof slopes; block up existing window in the side elevation at first floor level.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA
CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK)
FOR LISTED BUILDING
CONSENT
49 Ravenscourt Gardens
London W6 0TU
2017/00809/LBC

Installation of new double glazed timber patio doors with fanlight to replace the existing doors at ground floor level and installation of new double glazed timber framed sash window to replace the existing window at first floor level to the front elevation; replacement of 1no window at first floor level and 1no window at ground floor level with new double glazed timber framed sash windows to the side of rear back additions; internal alterations to at first floor level to include alterations to the staircase/landing area, removal of en-suite bathroom and cupboard, installation of new low level bulkhead and shelving to recesses at the front bedroom, installation of new en-suite bathroom and a dressing room, replacement of existing bathroom with a new en-suite bathroom to the rear bedroom; internal alterations at ground floor level to include the installation of new underfloor heating, installation of 3no risers to replace the existing steps, removal of cupboards to island area and replacement of existing kitchen appliances in the kitchen area, removal of wc and sink in the utility area, replacement of existing radiator, shelves and cupboards in the lounge/dining area.

4 St Peter's Villas London W6 9BQ 2017/00620/LBC

Erection of rear extensions at ground floor and basement level; alterations to the roof of ground floor back addition to include the installation of a new rooflight; installation of new windows to the side elevation and new doors to the rear elevation at ground floor level; formation of new steps, metal balustrade and handrail in the rear garden; internal alterations to include: demolition of existing wall and bathroom, reconfiguration of the basement level to provide a new wc, bathroom, and new flooring to kitchen area; associated internal and external alterations.

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

4 St Peter's Villas London
W6 9BQ 2017/00619/FUL

Erection of rear extensions at ground floor and basement level; alterations to the roof of ground floor back addition to include the installation of a new rooflight; installation of new windows to the side elevation and new doors to the rear elevation at ground floor level; formation of new steps, metal balustrade and handrail in the rear garden; associated external alterations.

Mathews Community Hall
2 Margravine Road London
W6 8HJ 2017/00765/FR3

Replacement of existing double glazed timber casement windows and timber external doors with new Rehau PVCu casement windows and doors; formation of a new disabled access ramp with handrails to eastern elevation; extension of existing railings and installation of a new entrance gate to southern elevation.

49 Ravenscourt Gardens
London W6 0TU
2017/00808/FUL

Installation of new double glazed timber patio doors with fanlight to replace the existing doors at ground floor level and installation of new double glazed timber framed sash window to replace the existing window at first floor level to the front elevation; replacement of 1no window at first floor level and 1no window at ground floor level with new double glazed timber framed sash windows to the side of rear back additions.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 10th April 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013

NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

Opposite Shepherds Bush
Police Station 252 - 256
Uxbridge Road London
W12 7JA 2017/00678/TEL56

I give notice that Maximus Networks Ltd is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Installation of a telephone kiosk.

Link Unit Outside

245 Hammersmith Road
London 2017/00634/ADV

I give notice that Mr Neil Scoresby is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Display of a free standing internally illuminated digital advertisement panel with a telephone to replace the existing advertisement panel.

Link Unit Outside 65 King
Street London W6 9HW
2017/00635/ADV

I give notice that Mr Neil Scoresby is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Display of a free standing internally illuminated digital advertisement panel with a telephone to replace the existing advertisement panel.

765 - 767 Harrow Road
London NW10 5NY
2017/00939/VAR

I give notice that Mr Max Kyte is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Variation of the wording of Condition 12 of planning application reference:

2016/01163/FUL, allowed on appeal (ref:APP/H/15330/W/16/3157196) dated 20th February 2017, to read as, "The commercial unit/s on the ground floor shall be restricted to opening times of 06:00-23:00 Monday to Saturday and 07:00-23:00 on Sundays and Bank Holidays."

The proposal constitutes a major development.

Outside 287 King Street
London W6 9NH
2017/00968/TEL56

I give notice that Mr Matthew Coe is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Installation of a new telephone kiosk to replace the existing (New telephone kiosk to be re-sited 1500mm closer to the kerb edge).

Outside 287 King Street
London W6 9NH
2017/00969/ADV

I give notice that Mr Matthew Coe is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Display of an internally illuminated digital advertisement panel to the rear of the replacement telephone kiosk.

Randolph Beresford Centre
Australia Road White City
Estate London
W12 7PH 2017/00710/FUL

I give notice that Randolph Beresford Early Years Cent is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a single storey building in the west side of the playspace for use as ancillary teaching space.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 10th April 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: JULIEMMA MCLOUGHLIN

Director for Planning and Development
on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the "Planning Online" logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: plancmatters@lbhf.gov.uk. You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6** between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above.

Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on 020 8753 1081 or 020 8753 1082.



Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: [www.lbhf.gov.uk/pl](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning)

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Email your sports news, reports and pictures to Tony McDonald at [sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk](mailto:sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk)

**LONDON WEEKLY NEWS**

**sport**



Conor Washington scored his third international goal for Northern Ireland – in the World Cup qualifying win against Norway



Chris Martin silenced his Scottish critics with the crucial winner against Slovenia

# West London goal heroes

Championship ‘rejects’ Martin and Washington strike World Cup glory

TWO strikers not considered automatic choices for their rival Championship clubs in West London fired themselves into the World Cup spotlight on Sunday night.

Fulham’s Chris Martin and Queens Park Rangers’ Conor Washington might still have plenty to prove to their respective club managers in England’s second tier but for now they are both basking in the international limelight.

Martin, who is on loan to Whites from Derby County, has given Scotland a lingering hope of qualifying for next summer’s finals in Russia by coming off the substitutes’ bench to snatch a dramatic late winner in the must-win game against Slovenia at Hampden Park.

And Washington kept the Northern Ireland bandwagon rolling with his first goal of this qualifying campaign to seal victory over Norway in Belfast.

Martin’s intervention was the headline story of the week-end internationals. There were just eight minutes left in Glasgow, with the Scots facing yet another ignominious failure to reach a major tournament,

when manager Gordon Strachan sent on the 28-year-old Martin as his last roll of the dice.

Having been substituted in the uninspiring 1-1 friendly draw with mighty Canada in Edinburgh four days earlier, Martin’s arrival was greeted by jeers of derision from a section of the Tartan Army who definitely didn’t regard him as their country’s saviour.

But within four minutes he went from zero to hero. Finding a pocket of space in the Slovenia box, Martin controlled Stuart Armstrong’s pass with a delicate first touch before striking a low, left-footed shot that went in off the far post.

The 88th minute goal resurrected hopes that Scotland – now two points adrift of second-placed Slovakia after this much-deserved victory – can still reach Russia. Their eagerly awaited next match, at home to the auld enemy England on June 10, is now of crucial importance. If Scotland can bag a win that day – and who would bet too much against it with the fervent support of the nation behind them? – it will leave them

just three points behind Gareth Southgate’s Group F leaders with all to play for.

Martin made the doubters eat their words but wasn’t about to rub their noses in it: “I’m not going to tell the fans what they should be thinking or how they should be feeling.

“Hopefully they enjoy the three points tonight and there’s a bit more optimism heading into the England game now.

“We always work hard for the manager and for each other and the country. The manager has shown faith in just about every one of us.

“We knew it was a must-win game and in the circumstances I think it was a very good performance.

“This can be a real turning point for us. We’re right back in the mix, a couple of points off second place, and there’s no better game next up.”

Despite their Hampden heroics, Scotland still have a mountain to climb if they are to qualify for the 2018 World Cup finals. Even to reach the play-offs, they will probably need to secure two wins, or one win and three draws from their five

toughest remaining qualifying games. At least Martin has given them some hope.

There was much less drama attached to Washington’s 33rd-minute goal at Windsor Park – a cool finish from 10 yards through the legs of keeper Jarstein – that sealed a convincing 2-0 win over Norway and maintains Northern Ireland’s impressive winning run in Belfast, where they have won seven on the trot.

After their proud efforts in last summer’s European Championship finals in France, where Northern Ireland were a breath of fresh air, there is every chance that the Green Army could march on to Russia next year.

[Michael O’Neill’s side are now second in Group C, five points behind Germany, but, most importantly, two points clear of third-placed Czech Republic and on course to reach the play-offs.

But what supporters of Fulham and QPR will be wondering is: will either Washington or Martin get a game this week-end?

**Tony McDonald**

## WIN! Chelsea Legends Tour

WOULD you like to go on a tour of Stamford Bridge with Chelsea legend Ron “Chopper” Harris as your guide?

Well, LWN Sport has teamed up with our friends at Chelsea FC to allow you and a friend the chance to win just such a prize.

For the ultimate stadium tour experience, look no further than an exclusive Legends Tour. Enjoy a personal experience with some of the most famous faces and biggest names to have graced Stamford Bridge.

On Sunday April 9, you could join FA Cup-winning skipper Ron Harris for an unforgettable tour of Stamford Bridge.

The club’s all-time highest appearance maker will show the tour participants around the Bridge, all the while entertaining them with tales of his eventful time in West London, which lasted almost 20 years.

As well as that epic 1970 replay victory over Leeds United, his time with Blues also included captaining the side to a first European success the following season.

On the tour there will be plenty of opportunities for photographs and autographs, as well as a Q&A session. All tour guests will receive a signed, personalised photo of Harris, plus a guidebook and use of an audio guide for the museum.

The tour with Ron “Chopper” Harris will take place on Sunday April 9 at 2.30pm.

The admission price is £80 per person. But we



Ron “Chopper” Harris during his Chelsea days

have two tickets to give away to one lucky fan.

To stand a chance of winning, all you have to do is tell us the result of the FA Cup final replay at Old Trafford in April 1970.

Now, this is an email-reply-only competition. Send your (hopefully) correct answer to [cfcjourn@gmail.com](mailto:cfcjourn@gmail.com) by noon tomorrow, Wednesday, March 29 – yes, that’s tomorrow, so be quick!

I shall pick out of the hat one winner – and two tickets will be that person’s to collect on the day.

Please supply a phone number where I can contact you should you win.

Additional points to note: the editor’s decision is final and you have to be able to get to and from Stamford Bridge under your own steam. This is a tickets-for-the-tour-only competition.

Good luck!

If you are unsuccessful, you can still book a ticket online for £80 at [chelseafc.timepursuit.com](http://chelseafc.timepursuit.com).

**Paul Lagan**

## Cairney rewarded – at last

FULHAM midfielder Tom Cairney was rewarded for a fine season when he made his Scotland debut in their 1-1 draw with Canada last Wednesday.

Whites’ creative No 10 played the first 76 minutes of the friendly at Easter Road, Edinburgh – home of Hibernian – and he was one of Scotland’s better performers.

With nine goals and nine assists for Whites, no other central midfielder in the Championship has been involved in more goals this season.

And 26-year-old Cairney gave much of the credit for his international call-up to his club coach, Slavisa Jokanovic.

“I have never had a season like I’ve had and I owe a lot to the manager and the staff for that as well.”

Playmaker Cairney believes his international progress was ham-

pered by being played out of position at Fulham.

“A few managers over the last couple of seasons have played me on the right wing,” he explained.

“I can play there but I never felt that was my strongest position.

“I have been playing in the middle of a three, it’s more natural to my game, and that’s a big factor in my form this season and I’ve enjoyed it a lot.

“I have wanted it for a long time now and it is great to finally be here. I don’t want to just be a flash in the pan. Once I am in, I want to stay in.”

Cairney, who had previously played at under-21 level, was an unused sub for Sunday’s World Cup qualifier against Slovenia at Hampden Park, where Craven Cottage team-mate Chris Martin stole the spotlight.

“I thought it would happen at some stage,” he said about his first call-up to Gordon Strachan’s squad.

“But, when it eventually happens, no matter how the season has gone, it is still surprising.”

Although born in Nottingham, Cairney retains strong links north of the border through his Scottish father.

“I used to come up every school half-term and visit my family in Uddingston,” he recalled. “I used to get my Celtic kits and stuff. I had good memories when I was little. My dad is a big Scotland fan, so I think as soon as I got called up it was a proud moment for him.”

Strachan said: “Tom Cairney has been absolutely fantastic this year. He could probably be the midfield player of the year in that league.”



Tom Cairney’s role at Fulham helped him achieve his international goal  
Picture: Rob Newell



# London Weekly News

# SPORT

Tuesday March 28 2017

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

**Gary Cahill is confident Blues can stay ahead of the rest in their pursuit of the Premier League title**  
Picture: Rob Newell



## Blues ready for run-in

### Cahill shows winning mentality as league title looms

**This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE**

By Paul Lagan

GARY Cahill is sure that Chelsea are fully prepared and ready for the home stretch they are entering, and that it will take Blues to the Premier League title.

Chelsea return to league action at Stamford Bridge on Saturday against a robust Crystal Palace side. And the West Londoners will have to display the same aggressive and positive mindset as they had in their last league outing, before the international break against Stoke City two weeks ago, if they are to reinforce their 10-point lead at the top.

The 2-1 win at Stoke, where Cahill scored the late decider, sent out a statement of intent to Tottenham Hotspur and the rest of the chasing pack.

Cahill said: "It's been good for us to do that. We have played better this season than we did at Stoke but we managed the situation and got the job done at a crucial time of the season.

"Teams have tried to play in different ways and systems against us but we have coped with it really well. We work really hard for each other on and off the pitch, which is the main thing.

"It's been a good season up to now but we know we have to keep going."

Teams have tried to kick Blues into submission. Perhaps the Eagles, desperate for points themselves to stay clear of the bottom three, will try something similar? The South Londoners are just four points above the drop zone.

"We expected that sort of game at

Stoke," said Cahill. "I saw the Manchester City game when they played them and how well organised they were. They frustrated City.

"They were tough for us at home when we beat them 4-2, so it was important we didn't get sucked into that. At times in the first half there were a few tackles going in and there was an element of them wanting to make it into a fight."

Cahill feels that this Chelsea side is mature enough to expect the expected and adapt to the unexpected.

"I think it's a case of adapting to different situations," he said. "Sometimes we have played our football and everything goes nicely but it's not always going to be like that. Teams won't always let you do that and they shouldn't either. It's the way we have adapted to different situations that has been most pleasing, plus the way we are managing games.

"Against Stoke, there was a lot of stop and start in the first half, fouls and heated situations which could have boiled over. We could have got into a scrap with them but they would have been the ones to benefit. It's just about managing situations and still playing our football.

"The manager stresses all the time that we still need to do the things we need to do."

Chelsea head coach Antonio Conte can smell the title but is quick to add a measure of caution as they head into a tough couple of matches, firstly against Palace and then Manchester City (next Wednesday, April 5, 8pm) – both at home.

"Our path is incredible," he said. "What we are doing. If we look at the first part of the season it was very difficult to put Chelsea in the teams to fight for the title. The start of the sea-

son wasn't bad with three wins. Then we changed a lot and now we stay at the top of the table – and we are determined to stay there.

"I have to say thanks to all of my players because they are working hard, they are working a lot and they trust in our football, our idea. They're showing me in every game great commitment, great will to fight, great will to show that we can win the league."

Conte expressed his appreciation of Cahill's value at both ends of the field: "Gary can play also as a centre-forward," said the Italian.

"He has good quality, acrobatic qualities, and he's very strong during set-pieces. I'm pleased for him because we conceded the penalty because the referee saw a little push from Gary. Then he thought to find the solution to score the second goal to win.

"I think this must be Chelsea's mentality. Don't forget, Chelsea is a great team and must play always to win. For this reason, when you play in this type of team you must have (the strength to) build, you must work on this type of aspect – the mentality to grow.

"At Stoke, we showed from the start until the end the will to win the game, not to come only for one point. We didn't want to manage the situation, we wanted to play the game to try to win, and in the end we deserved to win."

Conte is now 10 games away from capping his first season of management in England with the ultimate prize.

"I like to say that now we have to take 21 points to be sure to win the title. Otherwise we risk to lose. We have to think always positive and game by game.

"The international break allowed

some players to rest. It's important to be focused, because now we have two games at home, against Crystal Palace and Manchester City. It's important to be focused."

While giving the impression that all that matters is the next game, a club of Chelsea's stature always has to be thinking six months ahead, and to next season.

"I think that we started this season with work (to do)," he said. "This is the first season for me at Chelsea and, for sure, when you have the possibility to work more years with the team you can improve, you must improve. It's normal.

"This season is very important because my players are understanding my idea of football, and they are adapting in my system, in my philosophy of football. We are building something important.

"I think my players are fully in my idea of football, fully in the method. But I think that in everything you can improve, and for sure we must improve. But I repeat, when I arrived, a new coach in a new team, you must know your players and have a bit of time to understand the habits, and then to bring them to your idea – but also to show them that your idea is a positive."

● **CHELSEA Ladies** have reached the Women's FA Cup semi-finals.

On Sunday they had to overcome a 1-0 first-half setback at home to Sunderland but did so in emphatic style by hammering the North East outfit 5-1.

Two goals each from Ramona Bachmann and Hannah Blundell halted the potential shock and propelled Blues to an unassailable lead before Drew Spence added a last-minute goal.

Fulham's Tomas Kalas tussling with Brentford's Scott Hogan during their last meeting back in November. Bees are due to be Whites' last opponents at Craven Cottage, on April 29  
Picture: Rob Newell



## Whites must turn screw

**Focus on Craven Cottage**

FULHAM resume their promotion challenge at Rotherham on Saturday and will be fully expected to return from South Yorkshire with all three points.

Rotherham, crushed 5-1 by a Queens Park Rangers side that didn't need to get out of second gear in their last outing, are by far the Championship's whipping boys.

Whites must turn the screw in a merciless manner.

The international break probably came at a good time for Fulham, who urgently need to get back on track after losing to Wolverhampton Wanderers and drawing with Blackburn Rovers – both at home – in their last two matches. For sure, they will find Derby County a much tougher proposition when they visit Pride Park next Tuesday (April 4).

Having squandered two chances to leapfrog Sheffield Wednesday and move into the much-coveted sixth place, Fulham – now a point below the Owls – cannot afford to look any more gift horses in the mouth if they are to figure in the end-of-season play-offs and put themselves within touching distance of the Premier League. That said, the same applies to Wednesday, who have lost their last two games.

With eight games of the scheduled league season remaining, let's look at how both clubs' remaining fixtures pan out. Their opponents' current league position is shown at the end of each line:

**FULHAM**  
P-38 W-16 D-13 L-9 GD+19 Pts-61  
April 1 – Rotherham Utd (A) – 24th  
April 4 – Derby County (A) – 10th  
April 8 – Ipswich Town (H) – 17th  
April 14 – Norwich City (A) – 8th  
April 17 – Aston Villa (H) – 12th  
April 22 – Huddersfield Town (A) – 3rd  
April 29 – Brentford (H) – 14th  
May 7 – Sheffield Wednesday (A) – 6th  
**SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY**  
P-38 W-18 D-8 L-12 GD+9 Pts-62  
April 1 – Barnsley (A) – 11th  
April 4 – Rotherham Utd (A) – 24th  
April 8 – Newcastle Utd (H) – 1st  
April 14 – Cardiff City (H) – 13th  
April 17 – QPR (A) – 15th  
April 22 – Derby County (H) – 10th  
April 29 – Ipswich Town (A) – 17th  
May 7 – Fulham (H) – 7th

Comparing the two teams' respective run-ins, there is little to choose between them in terms of calibre of opposition.

The combined league positions of Fulham's eight opponents adds up to 94, while Sheffield Wednesday's is only slightly lower at 98. Both face one fellow promotion-chasing side each –

Wednesday go to leaders Newcastle, while Fulham visit Huddersfield, who are pressing for automatic promotion but Whites will hope the gap of four points currently separating them from Norwich widens before they meet at Carrow Road on Good Friday.

If it should all come down to goal-difference, Fulham's current superiority of 10 over both Wednesday and Norwich could prove decisive.

Fulham's West London neighbours, Brentford and QPR, could well have a big say in who reaches the play-offs in May. Bees are the last scheduled visitors of the season to Craven Cottage on Saturday, April 29 – and how sweet it would be for Whites to clinch a top-six spot that day, rather than face a nerve-shredding showdown against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough on Sunday, May 7.

**Tony McDonald**